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Clark, John Heaviside

The military costume of Turkey illustrated by a series of engravings from drawings made on the spot ; dedicated by permission to His Excellency the Minister of the Ottoman Porte to his Britannic Majesty

London 1818

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ex Versteigerungs-Catalog. Gsellius. 5/II/1918.

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1139. **(Miller, W.,)** the military costume, of Turkey illustrated by a series of (30 handcoloured) engravings from drawings made on the spot. Folio. London 1818. Rotbrauner Maroquinband d. Zt. m. reicher Rücken- und Deckenvergoldung, mit Goldschnitt.

Vinet 2338. Wunderschönes Kostümwerk, das den besten Überblick über das türkische Militär vor hundert Jahren bietet. Die künstlerisch ausgeführten Tafeln sind von Wagemann und J. H. Clark gezeichnet.

Versteigerung Gsellius; 5/II/18.

Geheimrath Jessen vom Berliner Kunstgewerbemuseum bot ebenfalls auf dieses Werk, und äusserte auf die Nachricht des Zuschlages an andere Seite sein Bedauern darüber, dass er kein höheres Gebot abgegeben hatte.

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Costüme Turk.

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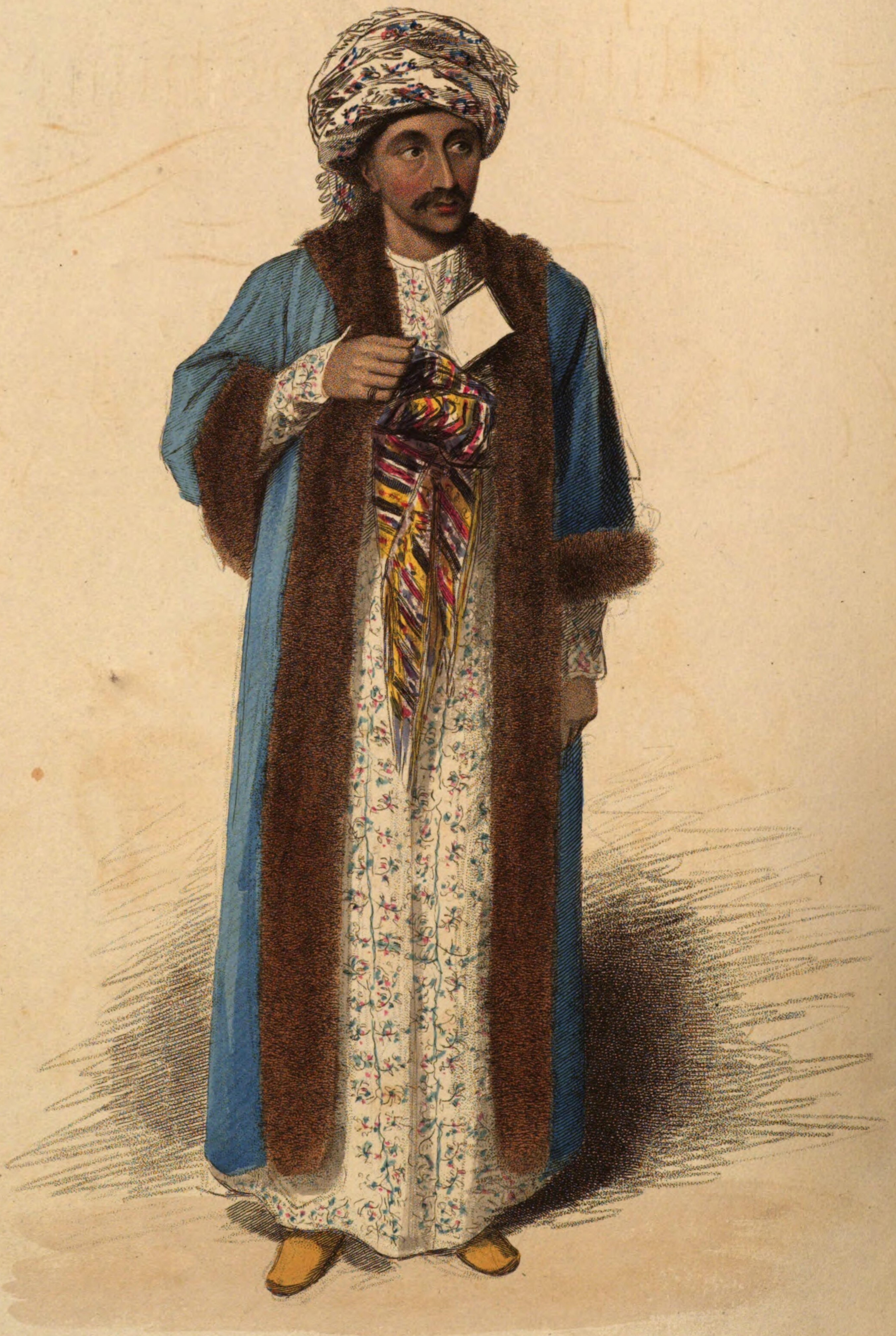

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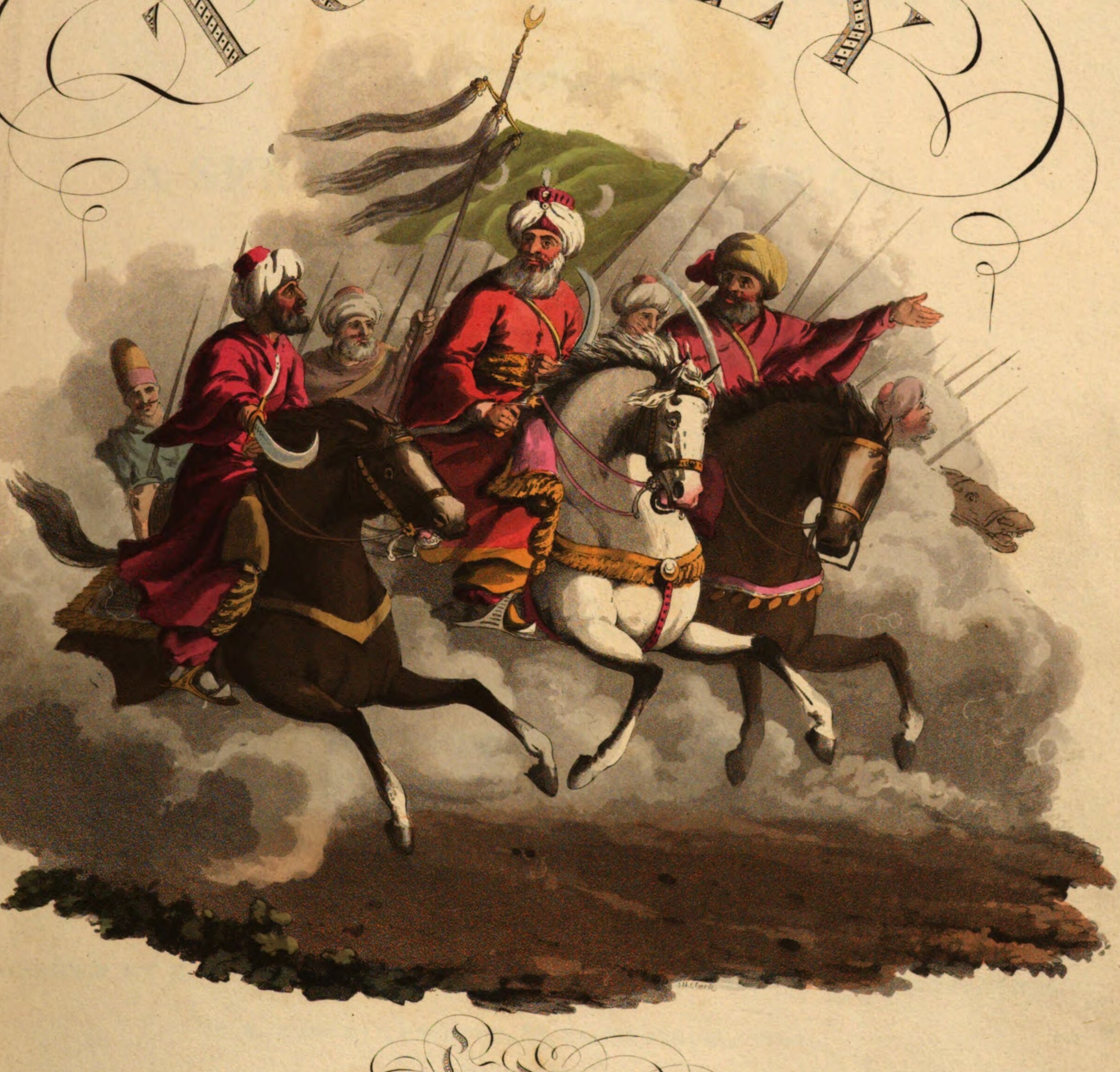
HIS EXCELLENCY
ANTONAKI RAMADANI,
MINISTER OF THE OTTOMAN PORTE
TO HIS
BRITANNIC MAJESTY.

The
Military Costume
OF
TURKEY



London

PUBLISHED BY THOS. McLEAN JANUARY 1. 1818.

THE

MILITARY
COSTUME OF TURKEY.

ILLUSTRATED BY

A SERIES OF ENGRAVINGS,

FROM

Drawings made on the Spot.

DEDICATED BY PERMISSION

TO

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE

MINISTER OF THE OTTOMAN PORTE TO HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY.

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY T. M'LEAN, AND SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS AND PRINTSELLERS.

B. R. HOWLETT, PRINTER, 10, FRITH STREET, SOHO.

1818.

Ja 155/35

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Staatsbibliothek
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München

TO HIS EXCELLENCY

ANTONAKI RAMADANI,

MINISTER FROM THE OTTOMAN PORTE

TO THE

COURT OF HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY,

THE

MILITARY COSTUME OF TURKEY,

IS WITH PERMISSION,

MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

BY HIS OBLIGED AND OBEDIENT

HUMBLE SERVANT

THE PUBLISHER.

Bayerische
Staatsbibliothek
München

PREFACE.

The Turkish crescent, which must still be regarded as one of the luminaries of the military hemisphere, shone most resplendent during the reign of Solyman the Magnificent; unlike the mild and beneficent influence of the planet, of which it bears the image, it glared for a long period with the portentous aspect of a meteor, on the Christian nations, who had to seek safety in leagues and confederacies; nor has much more than a century yet elapsed, since it required the genius of Sobiesky to check its progress under the walls of Vienna.

The glories of the crescent appear, for a considerable time past, to have been on the wane. This declension has doubtless been produced, in some degree, by a neglect of the discipline which formerly enabled it to triumph; but is also owing in a still greater measure to an external cause: it is not that the Turks know less of the art of war now, than they did in the more glorious periods of their history; or, that the soldiers which compose their armies, fail in the requisites of strength, courage, and hardihood; but that the European nations have made greater proportionate advances in military knowledge, whilst that of the Turks has remained comparatively stationary since the days of Solyman; during whose reign, all the cotemporary Christian authors, are reluctantly obliged to confess the superiority in the knowledge and practice of the art of war, possessed by the disciples of the Koran.

Another cause of the declension of the military power of this great empire, may perhaps be found in the little cohesion which exists between its parts. The rays of despotic power which can vivify every energy, and command every resource in the immediate vicinity of the Ottoman throne; diminish their influence as they diverge, until they are lost in the extent of empire; and the monarch whose frown is death at Constantinople, not unfrequently finds his power derided, and his Majesty insulted in the murder of the Capidgi, who bears his imperial mandate, by the Pachas and Beys of the more distant provinces.

PREFACE.

Four hundred families, or tents of Turkman Tartars, established in the 13th century, at Surgut, on the banks of the Sangar, by the father of Othman, (from whom the present Turks derive their national appellation) form the narrow basis on which the superstructure of Ottoman greatness has been raised; under a succession of able and warlike princes, of Amuraths, Solymans, Achmets, and Mahomets, their dominion has been extended, till the Ottoman sway is acknowledged over some of the fairest portions of the three ancient divisions of the globe; in Europe, the Danubian provinces, Greece and its Archipelago, with a part of the lesser Tartary; in Asia, Syria and the Holy Land, Natolia, Diarbec, Irac, Armenia, Curdistan, and a part of Arabia; in Africa, Egypt, and the Barbary States: in fine, from the banks of the Dniester, and the shores of the Black Sea, to the confines of Nubia; and from Morocco to Bassora, on the Persian Gulph; the Ottoman dominion is recognized with more or less reverence and submission.

The military supporters of the empire were divided by Solyman the Magnificent, into the Capiculy, or soldiers of the Porte, or capital; and the Serrataculy, or soldiers appointed to guard the frontiers. The Capiculy compose what may be strictly termed the standing army; they are raised and paid by the Porte, (and as the same causes in all ages produce the same effects) like the Prætorian bands of ancient Rome, they not unfrequently give law to their masters.

The Serrataculy partakes more of the nature of a militia, the chief strength of it consisting in the Timariots, which are a sort of military fiefs, held on condition of bringing a certain number of soldiers into the field when called upon.

The collected force of the Ottoman empire is said to amount to 400,000 men. The Janizaries are infantry, and the Spahis cavalry; they have each of them their Aga, or chief; a Seraskier, or commander-in-chief, must be a Pacha of three, or at least of two, horse tails, which ensigns of his dignity are displayed in a very conspicuous manner before his tent, which last is of a green colour. Whenever the Grand Seignior takes the field in person, the companies of the different trades at Constantinople, are obliged to make him presents in proportion to their ability; on such occasions the sacred banner which is named Sandjakcherif, or the standard of the prophet, and which is of green silk, is carried to the army with great ceremony.

As the countries from whence the Turkish armies are recruited, are distant in situation, as well as different in manners and customs, it will be proper that a few of them should be briefly touched upon, as introductory to the explanations which are annexed to the subjects composing this work.

Of the natives of the Danubian provinces, it may be observed as singular, that they have in different ages furnished the troops wherewith their country has been held in subjection. The armies of the ancient Roman emperors were recruited with the hardy peasantry of these provinces, and, in the present day, their Turkish masters still draw their most valuable soldiers from the same source; from the time of the first

Amurath, the Sultans were persuaded that a government of the sword must be renewed in each generation with new soldiers, and that such soldiers must be sought, not in effeminate Asia, but among the hardy and warlike nations of Europe.

The provinces above-mentioned became the perpetual nidus of the Turkish armies, and when the imperial fifth of the captives was diminished by conquest, a tax of the fifth child was levied for this purpose on the Christian families; such were the sources from which the grandson of Othman formed a body of troops, which, under the appellation of Janizaries, at one time threatened Christendom with subjection, and whose exploits have left on the page of history some of the brightest records of Mussulman glory.

The modern Grecians bear little resemblance to their immortal ancestors, except in personal appearance: it is by the Greek sailors of the Archipelago that the Turkish navy is navigated, but for the purposes of hostility Turkish soldiers are embarked.

The Tartars of Circassia to great elegance of form, unite beautiful features, have considerable strength of arms, and are very slender about the loins, which is, in a great measure, the effect of wearing a tight sash from their infancy; they are active and powerful, and these gifts of Nature are improved by an education which fits the individual for war; they being trained to the use of arms from their infancy: but like all the Tartar nations, they are from their habits of life best adapted to carry on a predatory warfare.

Egypt is inhabited by a variety of people, Moors, Arabs, Copts, Turks, Greeks, Jews, and Franks, whose manners and customs form strong contrasts with each other. The Arabs, who are perhaps the most numerous, are distinguished by a physiognomy full of expression, muscular arms, and the other parts of the body more agile than beautiful, more nervous than well proportioned. The Copts, who are the descendants of the ancient Egyptians, are, in complexion, a sort of tawny Nubian, with flat faces, hair half woolly, disagreeable features, and ungraceful person.

The troops furnished by the Asiatic provinces are chiefly cavalry, the horses of which are generally of Arabian extraction, and are sparingly fed with a little barley and cut straw.

The martial music of the Turks is not of the most pleasing nature; enormous hollow trunks, beaten by mallets, unite a heavy noise to the lively notes of little timbrels, which, accompanied with clarionets and trumpets, make a very discordant sound.

The Turks are what may be denominated a handsome race of people, and those who have acquired a stature above the generality, are possessed of a considerable degree of elegance, joining with the proportions reckoned beautiful, a countenance of dignity and expression. Some of these advantages are perhaps derived from the nature of their costume, which, in numerous instances, is well calculated to give importance and even majesty to the wearer. A splendid turban, in rich and massy folds, surrounds the head; a loose and flowing robe, often of the most costly materials and exquisite beauty, covers the form; a sash, which frequently exceeds the richness of the turban, is wound about the waist, but without compressing it; here the ataghan, the handjar, the pistols, &c. are worn, and suspended from which, is to be seen the highly valued Damascus scimitar. The complexion, touched by the scorching sun, is finely relieved by dark eyes, powerfully marked eyebrows, and mustachios, which give sternness and importance, to a physiognomy at once interesting and noble. Smoking is an universal practice amongst the Turks; their tobacco is of the mildest and most fragrant kind, and the pipe is frequently highly decorated and valuable. The length of the tubes through which the smoke ascends, the oderiforous nature of the woods of which they are composed, the amber mouth-piece, and the fragrance with which the tobacco is impregnated, render this not merely a pastime, but a luxurious enjoyment; it seems indispensable to a military life, since throughout the empire this propensity to smoking is equally indulged by the highest as well as the lowest ranks.

The Turks are excellent horsemen, and must be considered as very formidable cavalry: their dexterity in the use of the sabre, and the command they have of their horses, (notwithstanding they ride what would here be deemed short) is such, that instances are recorded where oxen have been deprived of the head by a stroke of the sabre. The Mamelukes are trained from their infancy to military evolutions, and display astonishing skill in the exercise of the javelin. The Arabian coursers are taught to perform their various manœuvres with wonderful facility; a simple snaffle and rein are sufficient to direct them in their swiftest evolutions, although they possess all the fire and strength so esteemed in that noble animal.

The children of persons of rank are inured to warlike pursuits, from an idea that no glory is comparable to that which is acquired in war; and such is the effect of inculcating military habits, that it is usual for horsemen to approach each other at full speed, and halting suddenly, fire a pistol in the air, which salutation is considered as complimentary, while it at the same time conveys a proof of the riders dexterity.

The love of military parade and of devotedness to the profession of arms, is conspicuous in the youth of Turkey; and though the precepts of the Mahometan faith may have a tendency to render them haughty, it is usual to meet with Turks of a distinguished rank, kind, affable, and possessed of great urbanity. The ceremonies of religion are regularly attended to, as well in camp as in other situations; prayers are said at sun-rise, at nine at noon, at two hours before sun-set, and at its setting: cleanliness being considered essential to devotion, ablution of the face and hands is performed, previous to each repetition of prayer. In the common ranks, the men are hardy, courageous, and capable of enduring great fatigue, under privations of every description; their ordinary diet consists of a small portion of bread, with a limited allowance of cheese, onions, olives, or oil; as either of these articles can be more conveniently procured: animal food they are not much in the habit of eating, though there is no religious objection to a gratification of that kind. Pillau forms a part of their diet; coffee and tobacco constitute their indulgencies, and water is their ordinary drink. Wine is disallowed by their religion, yet when the prohibitions of the Koran have proved too feeble to restrain the desire of the longing Mussulman, the luscious bowl has been drained of its last sparkling drop with the avidity of a true Bacchanalian.

Persons from all parts of this immense empire, united in the pursuit of military distinction, present a strange association of figures and difference of hues. The Military Costume of Turkey, therefore, comprises a great variety of dresses, as well as men of countries distant from each other, and varying in their complexions from the scarcely tinged Georgian, to the sable Nubian.

The subjects which compose this selection, have been furnished by the liberality of a gentleman, who had stored his portfolio during his residence at Constantinople.

The portrait of his Excellency the Ottoman Ambassador, is engraved from a likeness (in the possession of the publisher) for which his Excellency had the kindness and condescension to set in his robes for this express purpose.

London, January 1, 1818.

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PLATE I.

GRAND VIZIER.

THE Grand Vizier ranks immediately after the Grand Seignior: his ample power extends to every department of the state, and he is also the Generalissimo of its armies; when he takes the field, his dignity is enhanced by the attendance of all the ministers, who, by removing from Constantinople, would seem to carry with them the very seat of empire, were not substitutes appointed who reside in the capital, and answer to the Sultan for the due execution of their duties.

When the Grand Vizier assembles an army, the different Pachas choose out such of the Janizaries in their respective provinces as are fittest for the campaign, register their names, order them an allowance for their journey, and send them to join the army; the Timariots also who are possessors of a sort of fiefs held by military service, send the quotas of soldiers which their tenure obliges them.

The katcherif, or imperial mandate, by which a war is proclaimed, invites all true believers, able to bear arms, to unite under the standard of the faith to combat its enemies. The sacred standard, named Sandjakcherif, or the standard of the prophet, is of green silk, and is carried to the army with great ceremony.

The Grand Vizier is represented in the vignette title on horseback, at the head of his army which is on a march.

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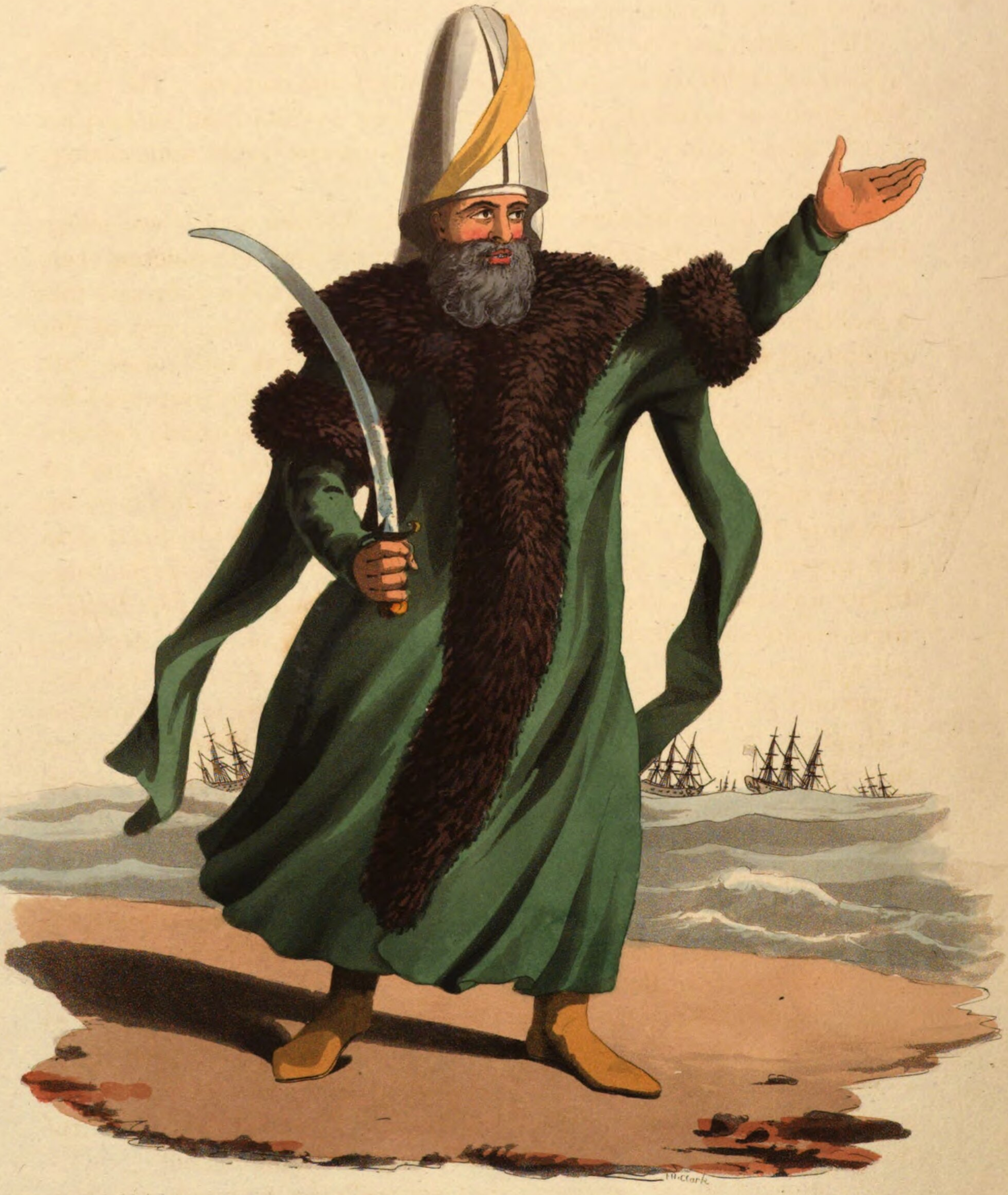

London Published by Thos. McLean January 1 1818

PLATE II.

CAPITAN PACHA.

The Capitan Pacha has the supreme command of the Turkish Navy, in which he has the appointment of all the principal officers His power also extends over the islands of the Archipelago, where he sails every Spring for the purpose of receiving the capitation tax.

The Turkish navy is chiefly navigated by Greek sailors, whilst Turkish soldiers are embarked for the purposes of attack and defence. The thirty-first ortah, or regiment, of Janizaries, whose symbol is an anchor, are chiefly employed for this last purpose, which therefore bears some analogy to our marine corps.

The great height between the decks of the Turkish men of war makes them unable to carry a sufficient quantity of sail without rendering them liable to overset. As the Turks wear high turbans, it has been said that a sacrifice of utility to convenience in this respect is the cause of this capital defect in the construction of their ships. An intercourse with British naval officers of late years has certainly somewhat improved the state of the Turkish marine. They are still, however, miserably deficient in tactical knowledge, as well as in the practice of working their ships. A Turkish fifty gun ship and a frigate her consort were both taken by the Sea-horse English frigate in 1808. The passive courage manifested in this instance by the Turks was most extraordinary. After the large frigate was disabled so much as to be like a log on the water, the English frigate cannonaded her for hours, till nearly four hundred of her crew, out of a complement of five hundred, were killed or wounded; and then it was only by force that the captain (who during the whole of the action had sat on the stern smoking his pipe) was prevented from blowing her up, whilst the officers caused her colours to be struck. Such courage, aided by the dexterity wherewith the Turks handle the scimitar, would make them to be found no despicable enemies in boarding, could they manage their ships sufficiently well to lay them alongside; nor is there hardly any country which, from the advantages of its situation, as well as the number of its harbours, is better qualified than Turkey to become a maritime power of the first rank.

The flag of the Capitan Pacha, having been a present from Mecca to the Grand Seignior, is honoured with superstitious reverence by the Turks. —It has the names of the disciples of the prophet in the four corners, a sabre with two blades for the escutcheon, and some passages from the Koran round the border, worked in silver upon a crimson stuff.

The annexed subject represents the Capitan Pacha in his ordinary dress.

PLATE II.

CAPITAN-PACHA.

The Capitan Pacha has the supreme command of the Turkish Navy, in which he has the appointment of all the principal officers. His power also extends over the islands of the Archipelago, where he sails every Spring for the purpose of receiving the capitation tax.

The Turkish navy is chiefly navigated by Greek sailors, whilst Turkish soldiers are embarked for the purposes of attack and defence. The thirty-first ortah, or regiment, of Janizaries, whose symbol is an anchor, are chiefly employed for these purposes, which therefore bears some analogy to our marine corps.

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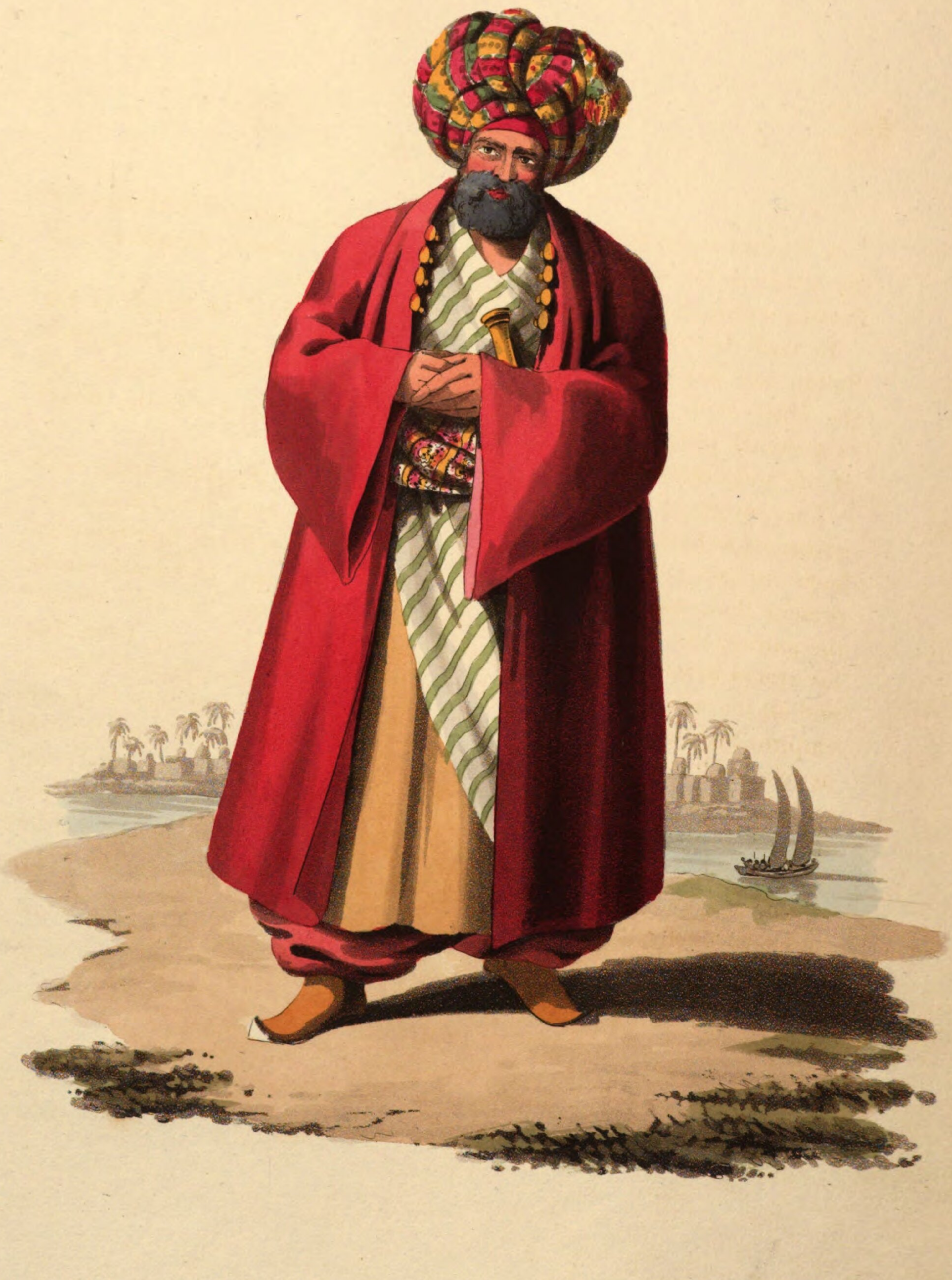
[illegible] from Mecca to [illegible] of the Prophet in the four corners [illegible]

The annexed plate represents the Capitan Pacha in his ordinary dress.



London Published by Thos. Mc. Lean January 1st. 1818

PLATE III.

PACHA.

A PACHA is the governor of a province or city, invested with most of the attributes of regal power, as his title implies, it being formed of two Persian words, Pa and Shah, which signify Viceroy.

In each Government, or Pachalic, the Pacha is the image of the Sultan, and like him is absolute; all power is united in his person; he is the chief both of the military and the finances, of the police and of criminal justice, and in addition to all, he is armed with the power of life and death.

The ensign of the Pacha's military dignity is two horse tails; such governors as have three, are generally styled Beglerbegs, whilst those who have but one, are called Sanjiacks. It is to these officers, that travellers present their firman for inspection, and it is by their permission alone, the journey can be pursued with safety. Sonnini says, he never unrolled his firman in vain; at the sight of it, the haughty Pacha, the stern Aga, and all the subaltern tyrants who rend, rather than govern, the Ottoman empire, became tractable and obliging; they lifted it to their foreheads in token of respect, and he seldom failed to obtain from them what he wished. The firman, or passport, is a complimentary rhapsody, addressed to the respective Pachas, expressive of the Grand Sultan's permission for the bearer to travel freely, or reside in any of the districts during his journey, provided he conforms in all things to the Sovereign order, succour and protection shall be granted him.

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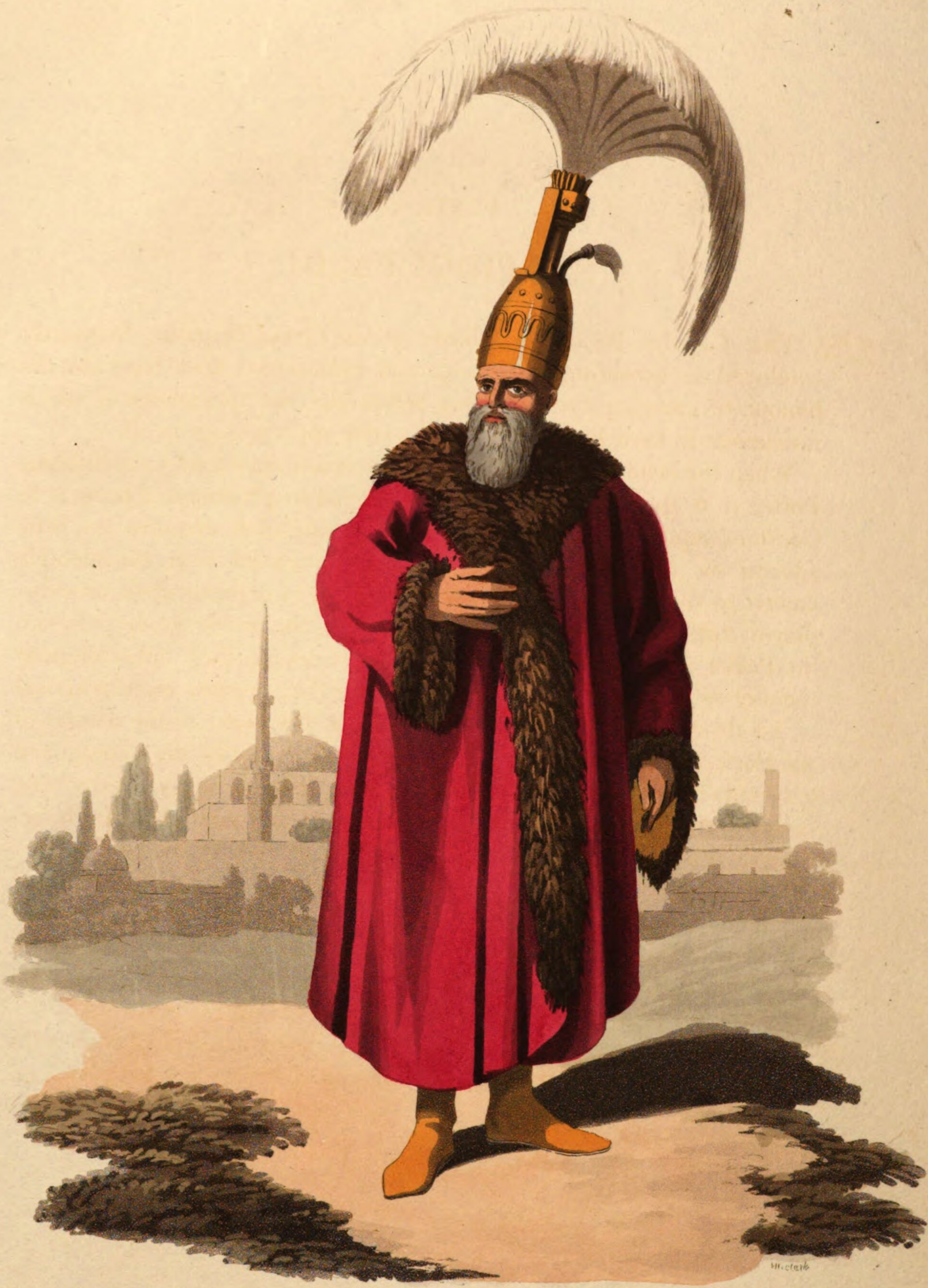

London Published by Thos. McLean January 1. 1818

PLATE IV.

CAPIDGI BACHI.

The Capidgi Bachi are officers of the Grand Seignior, frequently employed in executing his confidential commands; they have also the honour of carrying the bowstring before him, the appearance of which instrument in their hands fails not to excite apprehension in all.

When the head of a Pacha is on any account required by the Sublime Porte, it is these officers who are employed to procure and bring it to Constantinople; the execution of this commission requires no little address on their part, and is frequently attended with considerable danger to themselves. As success in their object depends upon their displaying the katcherif, or imperial mandate, in the provincial divan before the Pacha can acquire a knowledge of their design, they either disguise themselves, or make some feigned excuse for their journey on their arrival in his Pachalic; but as the Pacha is frequently awake to the designs of the Porte, he endeavours to find out the employment of the Capidgi and get hold of the katcherif before the latter has an opportunity of exhibiting it to the divan, in which case the head of the unfortunate Capidgi is frequently sent to Constantinople by the Pacha instead of his own.

The Capidgi Bachi are also a kind of chamberlains, or masters of the ceremonies, as they introduce those who are admitted to an audience of the Grand Seignior, and, in fine, execute all the extraordinary orders of the Sultan, whether it be to collect provisions, levy troops, confirm a Pacha in his post, drain him of his wealth, or cut off his head.

The dress of ceremony of the Capidgi Bachi consists of rich silks trimmed and lined with valuable furs, with a sort of crested plume on their heads.

PLATE IV.

CAPIDGI BACHI.

The Capidgi Bachi are officers of the Grand Signior, frequently employed in executing his confidential commands: they have also the honour of carrying the bowstring before him, the appearance of which instrument in their hands fails not to excite apprehension in all.

When the head of a Pacha is on any account required by the Sublime Porte, it is these officers who are employed to procure and bring it to Constantinople; the execution of this commission requires no little address on their part, and is frequently attended with considerable danger to themselves. As success in their object depends upon their employing the [illegible] in the provincial divan before the Pacha can [illegible] their design, they either disguise themselves, [illegible] their journey on their arrival at his Pachalik; but [illegible] is frequently awake to the designs of the Porte, [illegible] the Capidgi and gets hold of the [illegible] an opportunity of publishing it to the [illegible] Capidgi is frequently [illegible] at the same.

The Capidgi Bachi [illegible] of the [illegible] to a number of the Grand [illegible] extraordinary [illegible] of the [illegible] a Pacha in his [illegible] all his [illegible].

The dress [illegible] of the Capidgi Bachi consists of [illegible] with a [illegible] on their heads.

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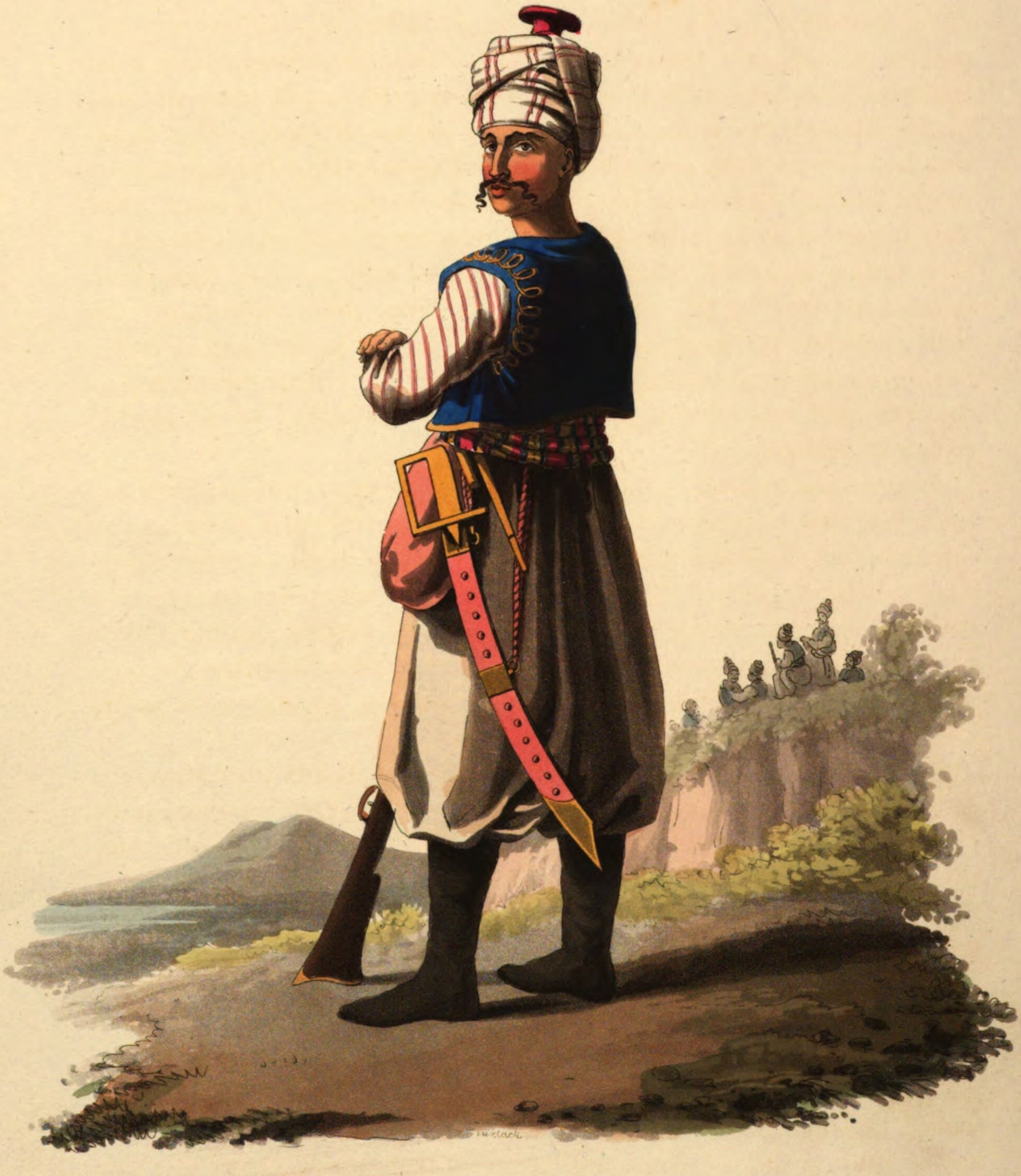

London Published by Thos. Mc. Lean January 1 1818.

PLATE V.

JANIZARY. *(pl. 1.)*

Janizary, in the Turkish language, (Yengicheri) means new soldier. The origin of this body is as follows :---When Amurath the First was subjecting the provinces which lay between the Danube and the Adriatic, he could not but observe the hardihood and courage of the natives; and being reminded by his Vizier, that he, as Sultan, was entitled to a fifth part of the captives taken in war, he caused the strongest and most beautiful Christian youths to be selected, whom he caused to be educated in the Mahometan faith, and trained to the use of arms. After Amurath had formed them into a body, he sent them to Haji Bektash, a celebrated Turkish Santon, to bestow a banner on them. The saint, when they appeared in his presence, put the sleeve of his gown upon one of their heads, and said, " Let them be called Yengicheri; let their countenance be ever bright, their hands victorious, their swords keen; let their spear always hang over the heads of their enemies, and wherever they go, may they return with a shining face;" by these means the enthusiasm and zeal of a monkish institution was added to the martial ardour of soldiers.

At their first institution, the number of Janizaries was not considerable; since that they have increased very much, and are now said to amount to four hundred thousand men scattered over the provinces of the empire. The privileges enjoyed by this body, and the safety and consequence resulting to its members from a sort of *esprit de corps*, causes almost every one to endeavour to get enrolled in some one of its ortahs, or regiments; even the Sultan himself, at the ceremony of girding on the sabre, is enrolled at the head of the first.

For a period of nearly two hundred years after its first institution, the courage and discipline of this body was not relaxed, but remained in its primitive vigour; since that, however, it has gradually declined, and the Janizaries of the provinces can now only be considered as a sort of ill-disciplined militia, more often employed in fomenting intestine disorder than in repelling foreign aggressions.

The Janizaries, on occasions of ceremony, are obliged to wear red shoes, great blue breeches, and a particular sort of bonnet, the other part of their dress may be of what colour they please; their uniform, with the above exceptions, only consisting in the cut. When Haji Bektash named and consecrated the Janizaries, he put the sleeve of his garment on the head of one of them, and it is said that the long piece of cloth which hangs down from behind the bonnets of these troops, is worn as emblematic of that sleeve.

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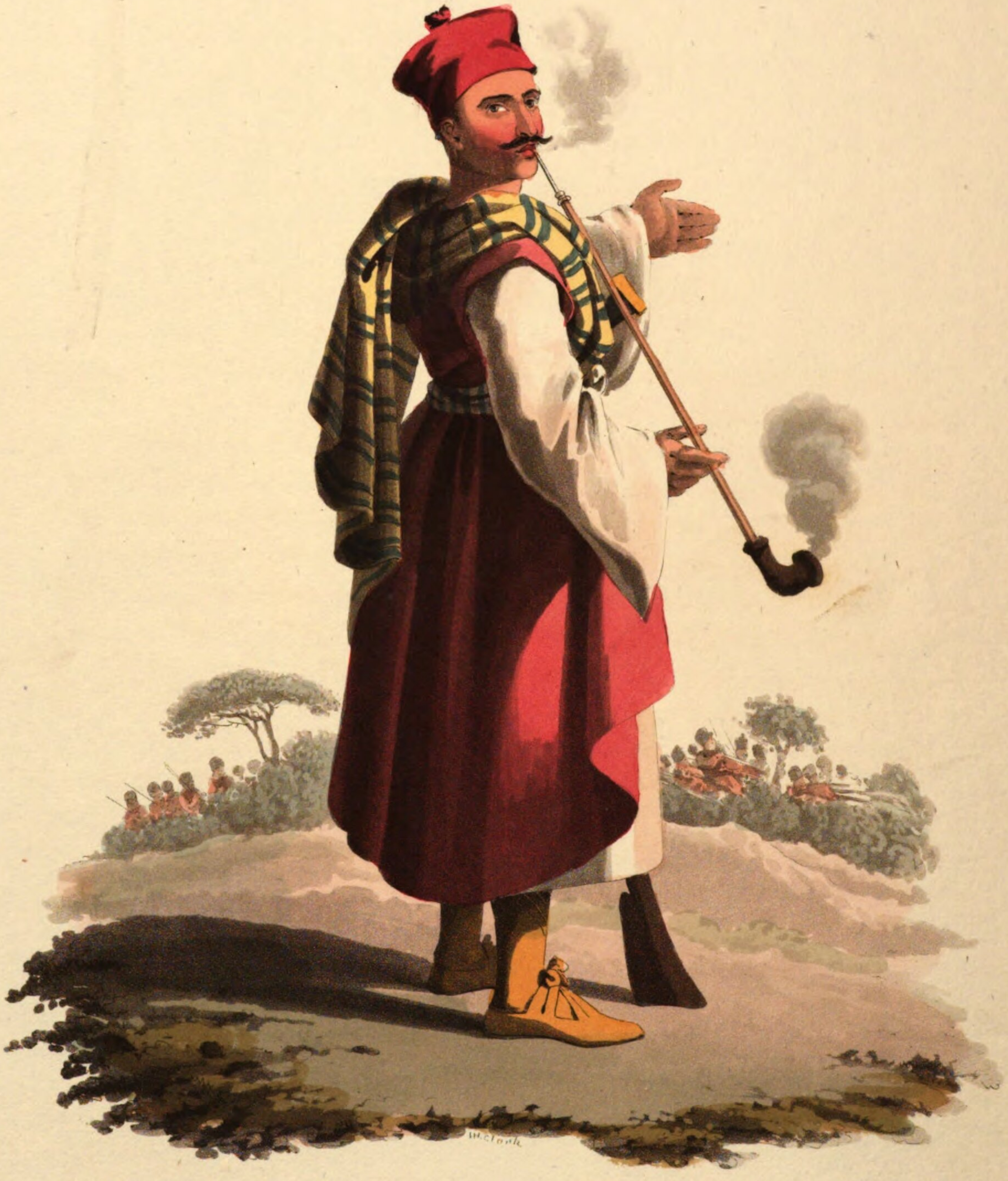


London Published by Thos. McLean January 1st 1818

PLATE VI.

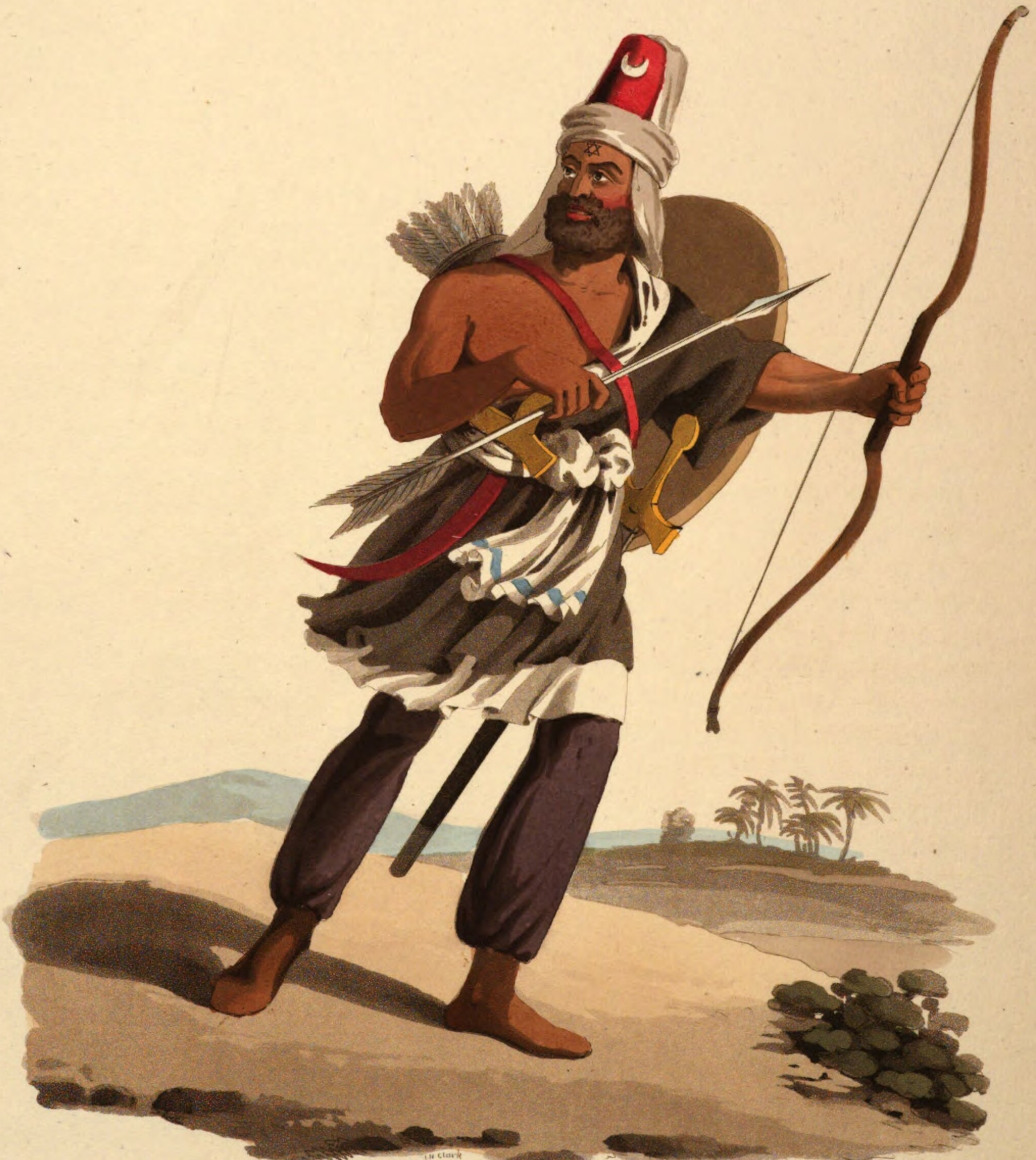
JANIZARY. *(pl. 2.)*

The Janizaries are divided into one hundred and one ortahs, or regiments; each Janizary impresses a mark upon his arm expressive of the ortah to which he belongs, by puncturing his skin with a needle and rubbing gunpowder upon it, which makes an indelible impression. A crescent is the symbol of the first ortah, in which the Sultan is enrolled; that of the thirty-first, which serves on board the fleet, is an anchor.

The number of Janizaries in each ortah is not fixed, but depends upon its celebrity; from a vanity natural enough, greater numbers enrolling themselves in such ortahs as are most distinguished; the number in some is extremely great, that of the thirty-fifth, amounting to nearly thirty thousand.

This plate represents a Janizary belonging to a different ortah to the preceding.

7

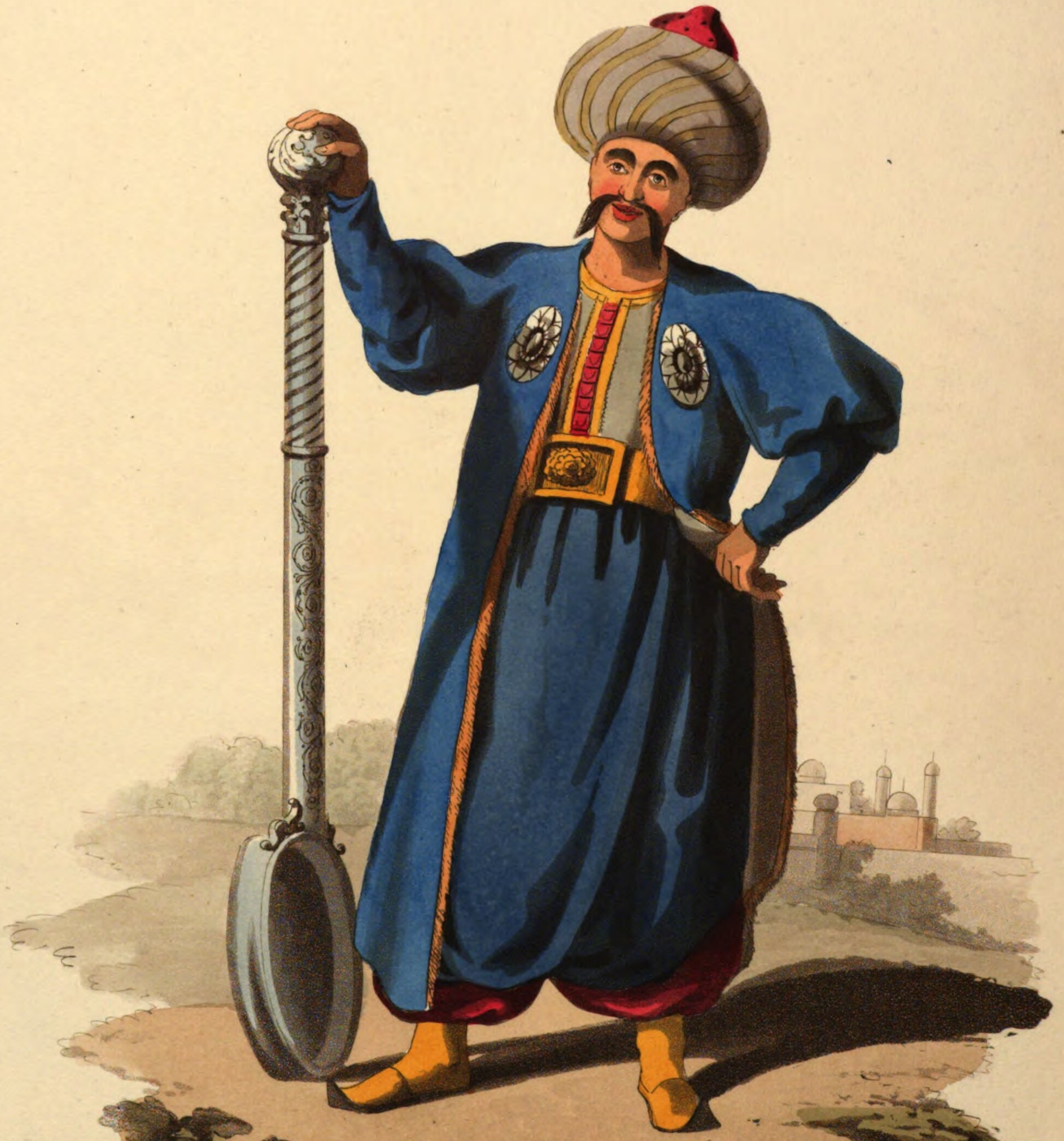


London Published by Thoˢ. Mᶜ Lean January 1 1818

PLATE VII.

JANIZARY OF ARABIA FELIX.

PETREA, which is the smallest of the three Arabias, is barren. Deserta, obtains its name from the poverty of its soil, excepting the vicinity of the Euphrates, the country being a sandy desert. Felix, is named from the fertility of its soil, which, compared with the others, is rich and worthy cultivation; the inhabitants, nevertheless, lead wandering lives for the purpose of pasturing their flocks, or become robbers, as the caravans passing between Bassora and Aleppo, or Egypt and Mecca, frequently experience. The celebrated Mahomet was a native of this country, by whose arms, and those of his followers, the faith which he inculcated has been spread over so large a portion of the globe. The chief who has the government of Arabia Felix, has in his guard numbers of infantry armed as in the annexed print. The troops obtained from these provinces are not useful in the modern system of warfare, yet archery is practised in Constantinople, and some of the Asiatic troops still carry bows and arrows as part of their military equipment.



London Published by Thos. Mc Lean January 1.1818.

PLATE VIII.

LADLE BEARER.

THE rank of this officer must not be judged of by the ideas which we should naturally be led to affix to his designation. The greatest disgrace which any of our regiments could suffer, would be in the loss of their colours; the utmost which could befal a Turkish one, would be in the loss of its ladles and kettles; every ortah, or regiment, has two of each, which are carried with great ceremony at the head of the corps, and should both be taken by an enemy, the regiment is considered as destroyed, and is formed anew before others are given to it.

In strict conformity with such ideas of military parade, the Janizaries have each of them a wooden spoon, wherewith they eat their pilau, and which they wear instead of a feather, stuck into a copper tube, which is affixed in front of their bonnets. When they receive their rations with quickness and alacrity, it is concluded that they are well affected and satisfied in their ortah; on the contrary, they show their dissatisfaction by advancing to receive their rations in a sour negligent manner; whilst the greatest sign of their discontent is to keep away altogether at the time of distribution.

In general revolts or mutinies of the Janizaries at Constantinople, they have a custom of carrying their kettles to the front of the seraglio, where they place them on the ground, upside down: when they give this terrible instance of their displeasure, it becomes necessary to appease them, by delivering the heads of the first characters of the state, who are sacrificed to them without even the form of a trial; even the deposition of the Sultan himself has frequently become the consequence of their exhibiting this mark of their displeasure.

9

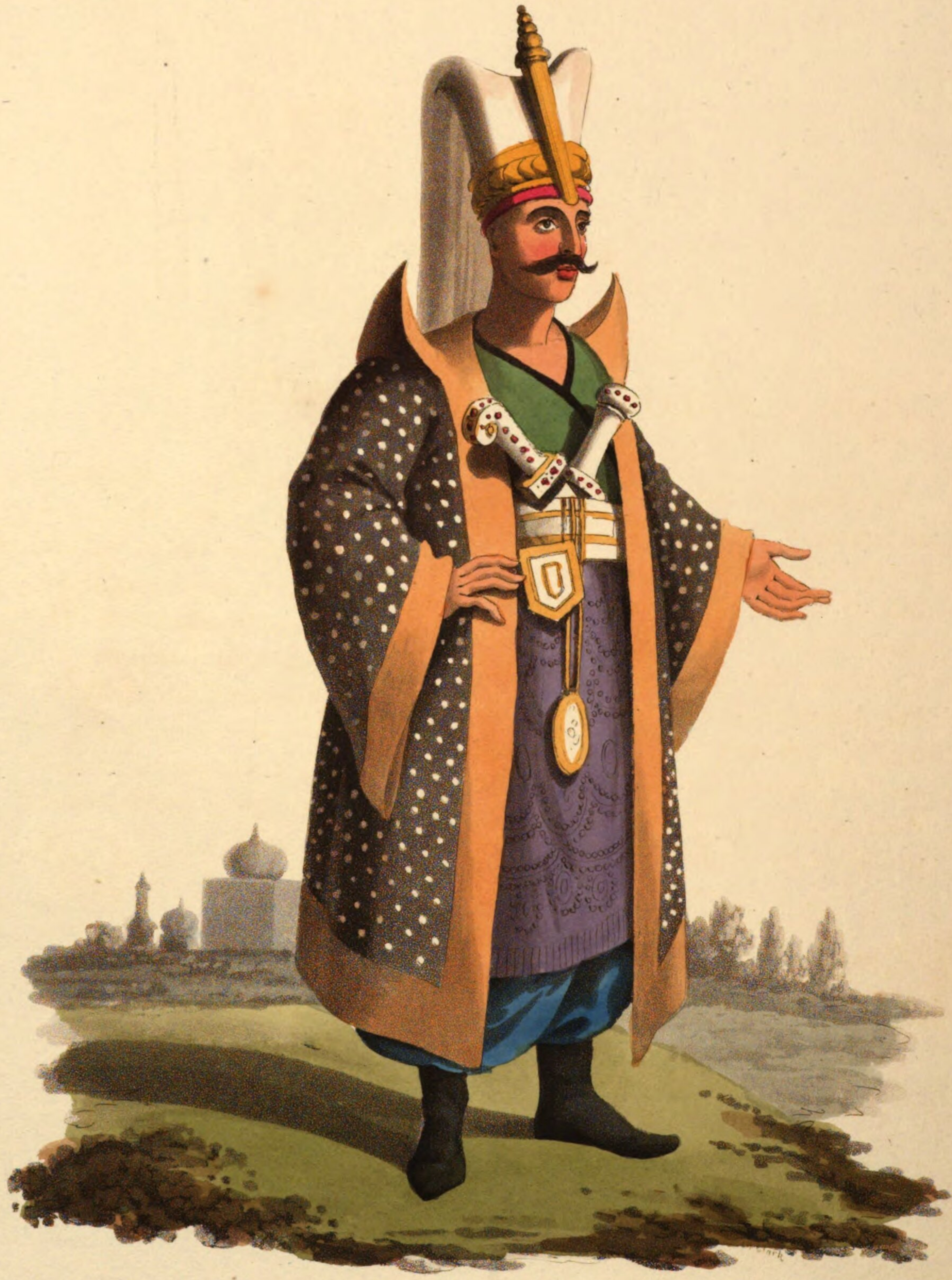


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PLATE IX.

COLONEL OF JANIZARIES.

THE designations of almost all the different officers of the Janizaries are analagous to that of the officer described in the preceding page, and like his have some reference to the Kitchen, the officer whom we call Colonel, being by them styled Tchorbadji, which, literally translated, means giver of soup. The Major, Achetchi; or head of the kitchen. The Adjutants, Carcoolooctchi, or Scullions; and others, water bearers, &c. The Adjutants wear a girdle of copper of fifteen pounds weight, wherewith they are allowed to enforce military discipline by knocking down, or even killing any Janizary with it who they may think deserves it; and on this account the officers who wear this emblem of authority are extremely respected by the Janizaries.

10

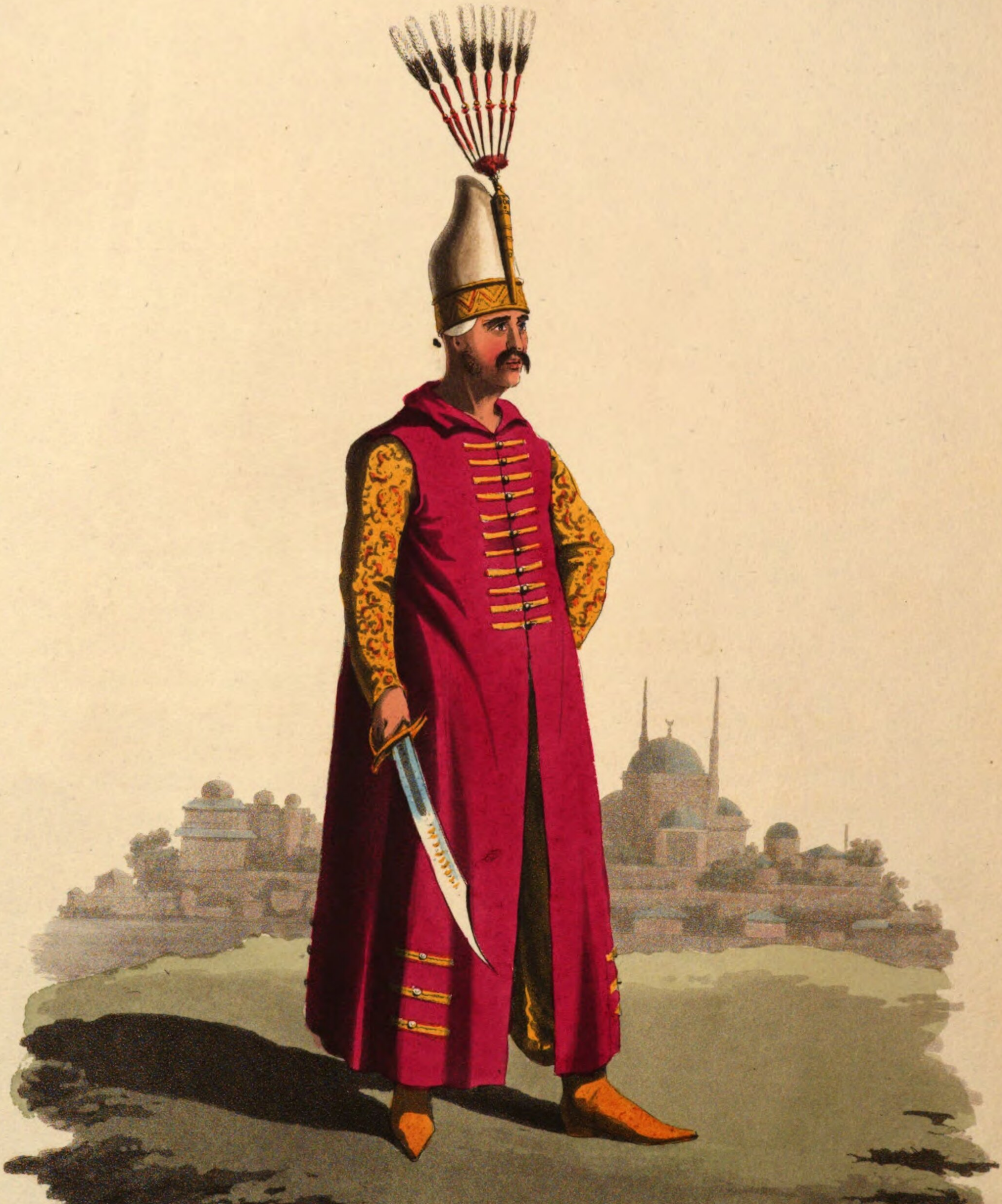

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PLATE X.

OFFICER OF JANIZARIES.

THIS plate represents a subaltern officer. The rank of the different officers in the Turkish armies are distinguished from each other by the form of their turban, or bonnets.

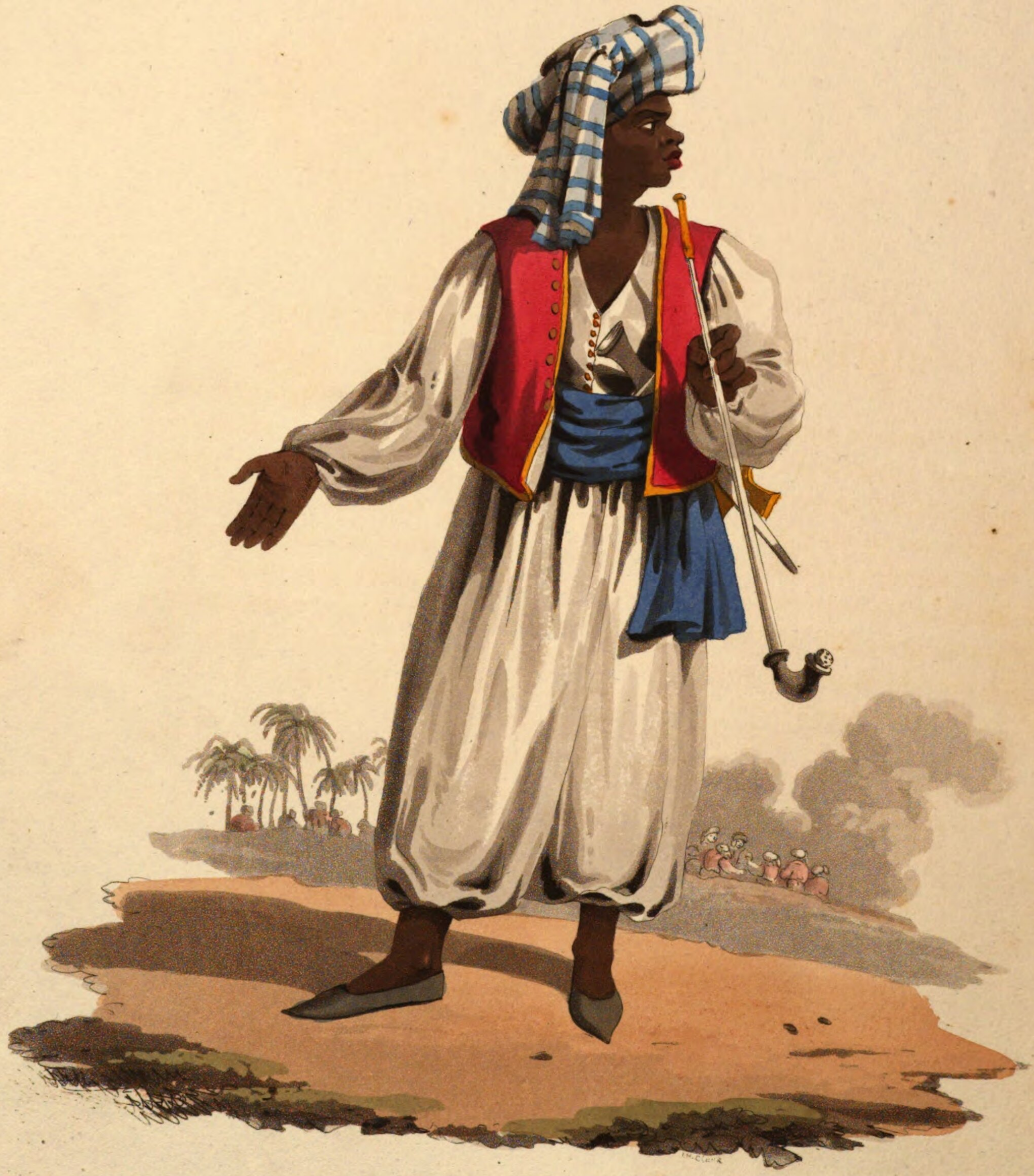

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PLATE XI.

MILITARY CHIEF OF UPPER EGYPT.

THE remote provinces of the Turkish empire pay little more than a nominal subjection to the Porte, whose commands meet with attention, in Egypt, no longer than the chiefs who govern it find their own interest concerned in obeying them. In such countries, therefore, the traveller must venture with the greatest circumspection, when the firman of the Porte is his only safeguard, which is often either doubted or held in contempt by the ignorant chief or his rapacious subalterns, whose enmity to the Christian faith is ever alive, and whose dread of magic keeps the worst suspicions awake. The firman is therefore of little use here, compared to what it is in European Turkey.

The annexed subject represents a military chief attendant on an Aga of Upper Egypt. An Arab party are reposing in the distance.

12

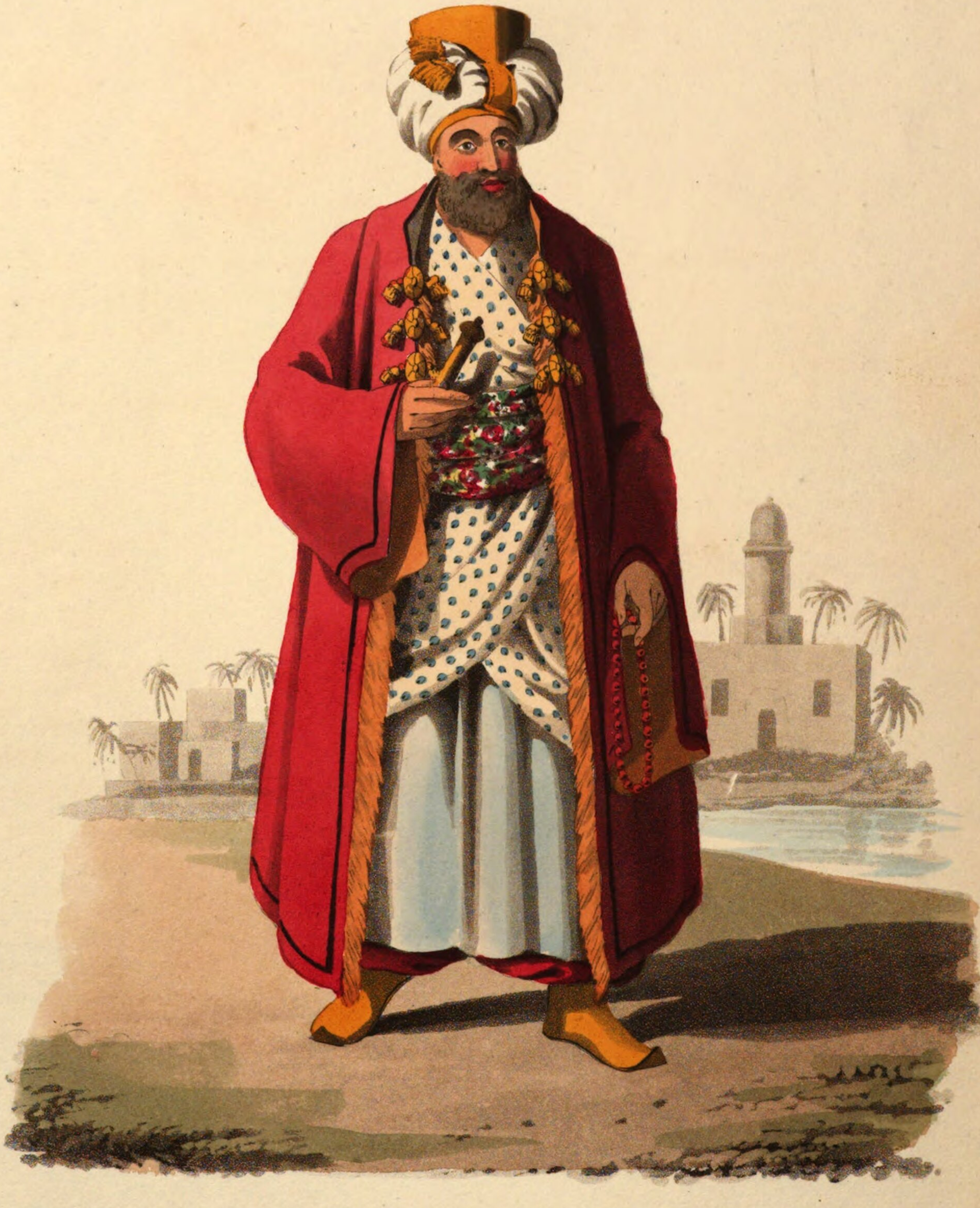

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PLATE XII.

BEY.

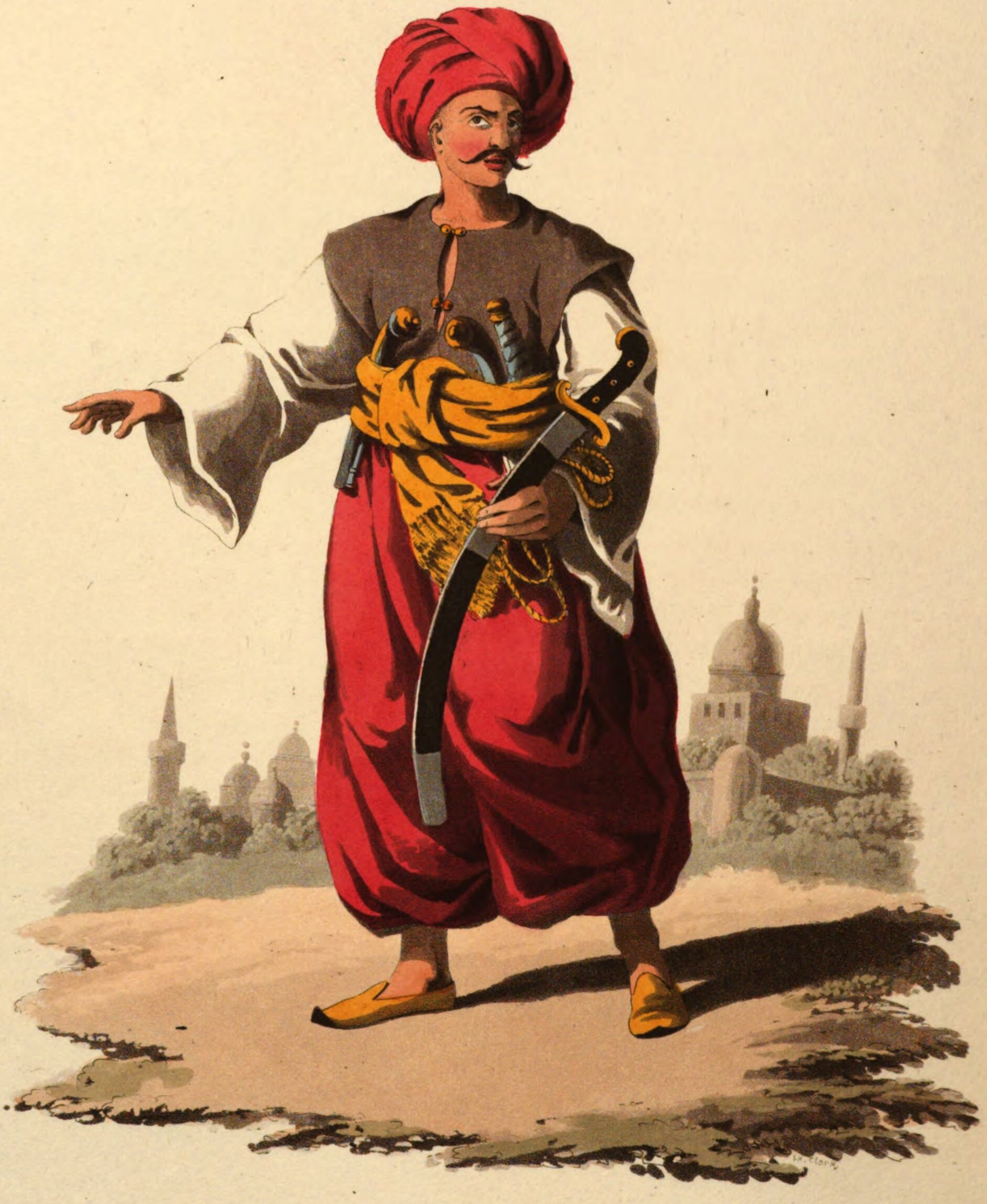
EGYPT is governed under a Pacha, who is nominated by the Porte, and who usually resides at Grand Cairo; by twenty-four Beys; who form a divan, of which the Pacha, who has also the title of Shek Elbelet, or prince of the country, is president.

Each Bey, however, may be considered as almost an independent sovereign in his province. The most powerful Beys form parties amongst the rest, with which they frequently make war among themselves; the victorious faction generally keep the Pacha almost as a prisoner, and scarcely ever pay more than a nominal submission to the Porte; the only means resorted to, by which to support its authority, is by fomenting the enmities and civil wars of the Beys, which rend and distract this ill-governed and unhappy country.

The Beys, themselves, are originally Mamelukes, which form the military force, wherewith they desolate rather than govern the country. The Mamelukes are composed of Circassian slaves, who are brought young into the country, and being trained to arms, in the use of which they are very dexterous, rise afterwards to be its despots: perhaps the world does not exhibit such another instance of national degradation, as this once famous country now does, governed, as it is, by a succession of slaves.

The accompanying subject is a representation of an Egyptian Bey, in the dress ordinarily worn while resident at the palace at Grand Cairo.

13



London Published by Thos. McLean January 1, 1818.

PLATE XIII.

MAMELUKE OF EGYPT.

THE Mamelukes, who till very lately formed the military force of Egypt, were said not to exceed twelve thousand men, and were slaves imported from Circassia and Mingrelia. They were carefully instructed in every exercise of strength and agility, and usually repayed the kindness of their masters, the Beys, with the warmest gratitude and most valiant services.

The Mamelukes being trained from their infancy to military exercises, displayed in them uncommon skill. The javelin aimed with precision, was never known but to strike the mark. " The well-tempered blade of Damascus," says Sonnini, " is by them wielded with astonishing dexterity, and in their hands proves a most dreadful weapon." He often observed them try these weapons in the following manner :—A large cushion stuffed with feathers or materials equally soft and flexible, was placed about the height of a man, in such a manner, that the slightest touch would cause it to fall, which they would divide with a single stroke of the sabre, whilst passing it on horseback at full speed. Such astonishing expertness joined to most excellent horsemanship, would, were they acquainted with European tactics, render them invincible; but formidable, as they individually appeared, their prowess became of little effect when opposed to the collective weight of a charge in squadron. Their horses possessed, in an eminent degree, the qualities most useful to man, inexhaustible strength, prodigious speed and inconceivable temperance, to which may be added the most perfect symmetry of form. The dress constantly worn by the inferior Mamelukes, was a pair of large crimson drawers of thick Venetian cloth attached to slippers of red leather, and a greenish cap of a peculiar form, fancifully decorated with a turban. Their usual arms were a pair of pistols, a dagger, and a sabre; but when engaged in battle, they were furnished with a brace of horse pistols and a battle axe. They also wore an open helmet and a suit of armour, consisting of interwoven links of steel, under their dress.

14

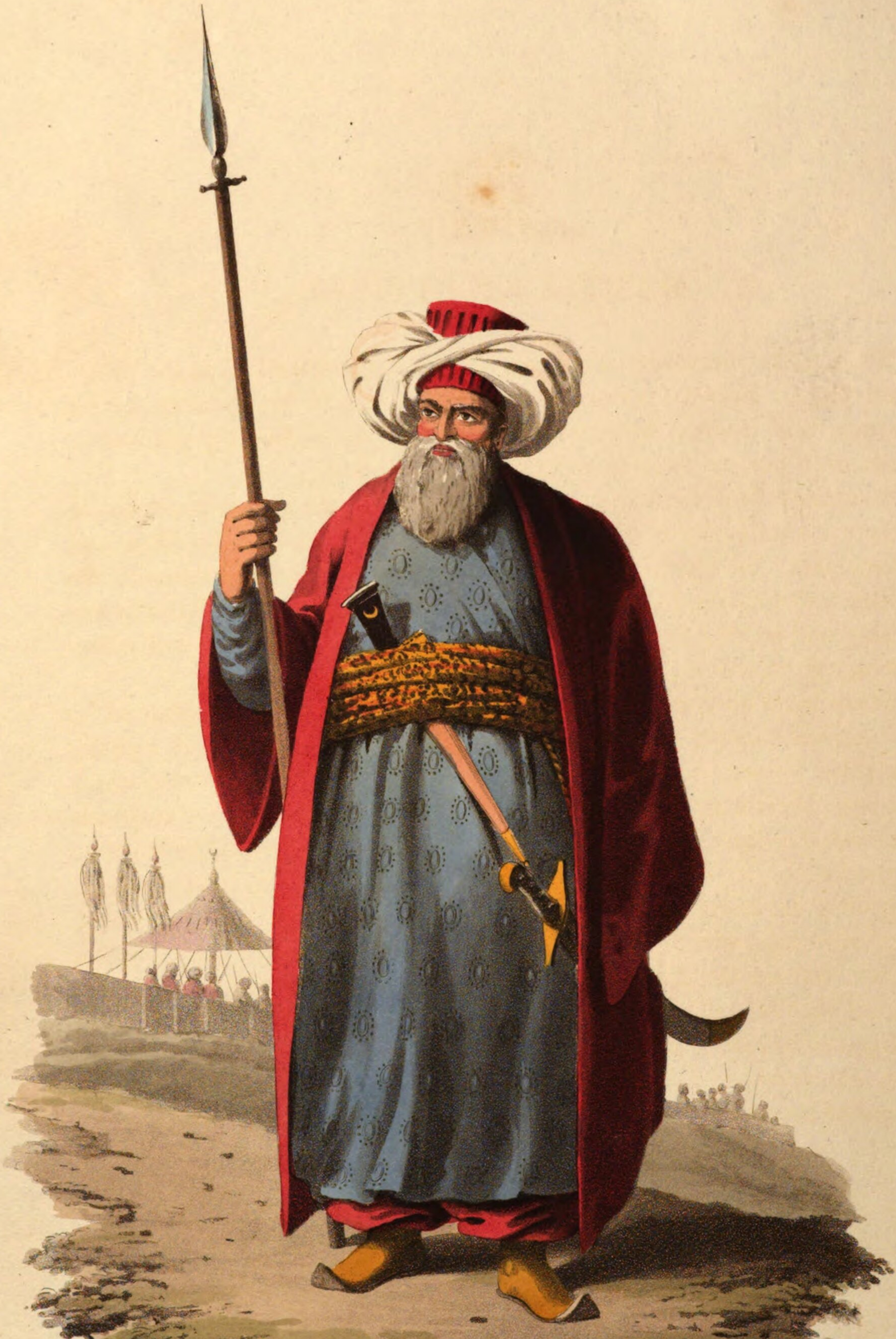


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PLATE XIV.

MAMELUKE OFFICER.

This plate represents an officer of the corps described in the preceding page. Brought when young, as a slave, into the country, by his courage and address he usually rose through the different gradations of rank, until perhaps, as a Bey, he became its tyrant.

It appears from the latest accounts, that the Porte has endeavoured to restore its authority in Egypt, by reducing the power of the Beys and Mamelukes; for which purpose it has introduced Albanian soldiers. The Pacha sent to Grand Cairo, having in 1811, made use of the latter in surprising and putting to death a large body of the Mamelukes; and subsequently given orders for the destruction of the rest.

It has been observed as a curious fact, that like plants transplanted to an ungenial climate, the Mamelukes who disdained to intermarry with the Egyptian women, have generally failed to propagate their kind, which has been accounted for on the supposition, that the climate was more unfavourable to their wives (who were also from Circassia or Mingrelia) than to themselves; as such of them as married Egyptian women, were in general as prolific as the natives. It may also be observed, that when a Bey did happen to have children, they did not succeed to the authority of their father; but on the decease of the latter, a new Bey was elected from among the Mamelukes, as these last, from the cause above stated, were obliged to be continually recruited by slaves, drawn from a foreign source. The government of Egypt by them, must in every sense be regarded as one of the most extraordinary military despotisms that ever existed.

15

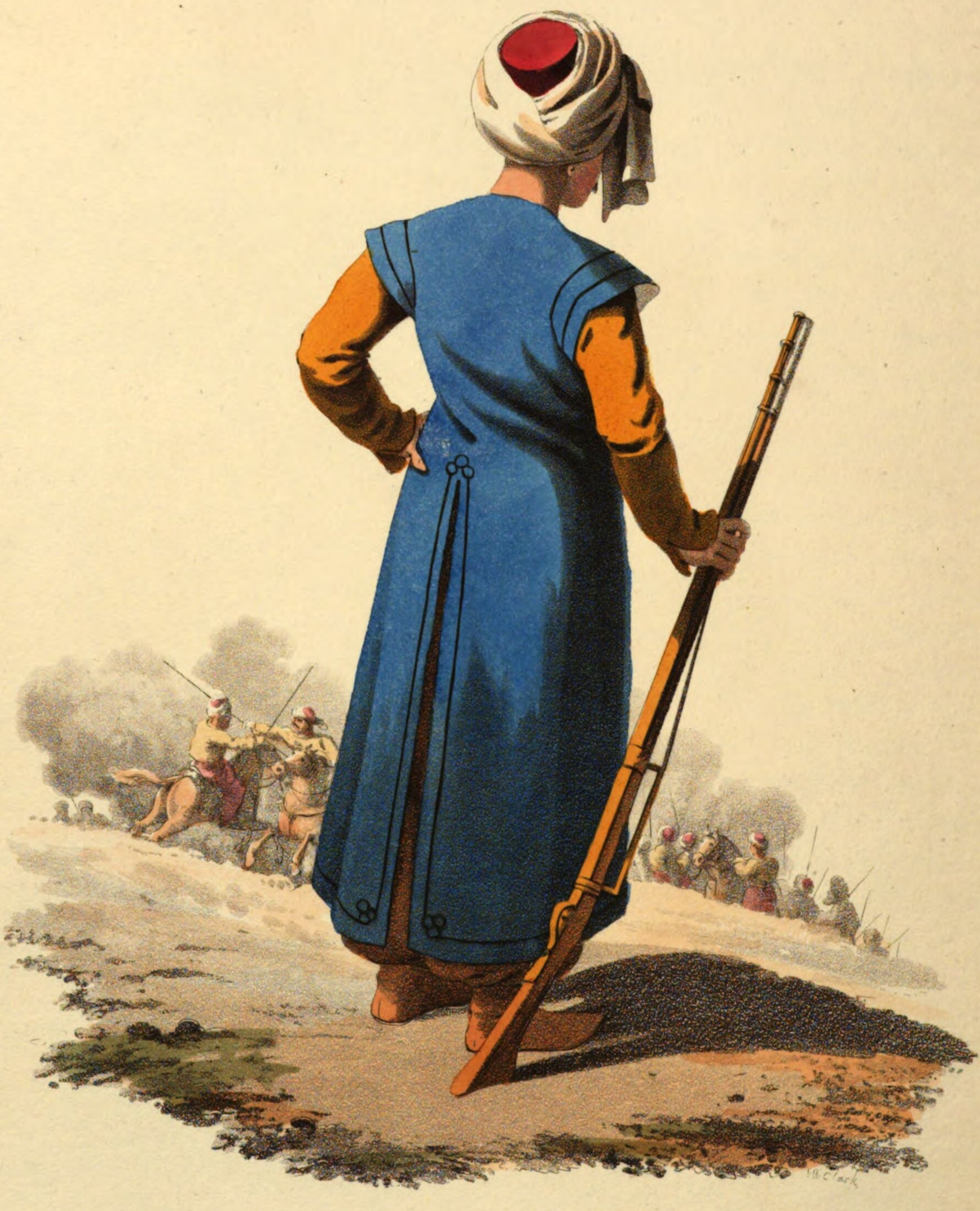

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PLATE XV.

MAMELUKE OF CONSTANTINOPLE.

At plate 13, the origin and nature of the discipline of the Mamelukes of Egypt are described. The present subject represents one of a corps similarly organized at Constantinople.

The form of the scimeter used by the Mamelukes, which is very crooked, appears singular, and at first glance very inadequate to the effect which in their hands it produces; but it should be considered, that a straight blade, as it acts merely from pressure, its effect is limited to the place and moment of its fall; whereas one that is crooked, presenting its edge in retiring, slides by the effort of the arm, and continues its action longer; it is, therefore, perhaps at least as much owing to this crooked form, combined with the keenness and temper of their weapons; as to their strength and dexterity in the use of them; that the Mamelukes can cut a clew of wet cotton like a piece of butter.

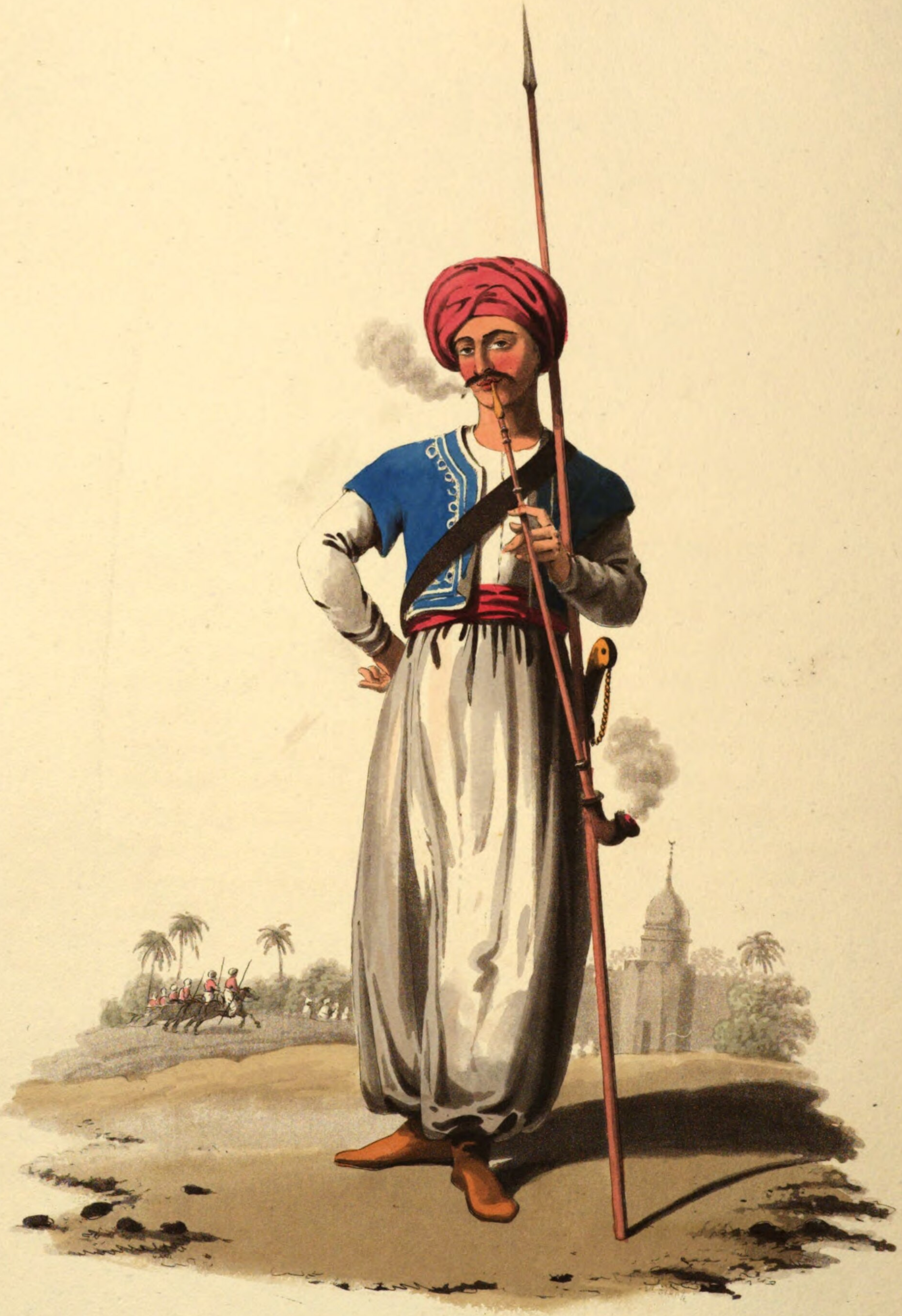

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PLATE XVI.

MAMELUKE OF THE GRAND SEIGNIOR.

NEARLY all the posts of honour and profit under the Turkish Government are filled by such as have received their education in the college at Pera. To this place boys are forwarded by the Pachas of the different provinces as presents to the Grand Seignior, who, after receiving proofs of their advancement, employs them in or about the Seraglio. Their progressive official duties are performed by being pages or attendants in the three chambers, after which they are employed about the person of the Sultan, and are subsequently elevated by their superior merits, favouritism, or intrigue. The ties of consanguinity being entirely removed, advancement to the notice of the Sultan depends chiefly on chances, in which real merit has frequently little concern; but such is the policy of the Turkish Court. He who was once a slave may, by an influence where it should not be permitted to exist, become master of the treasures and destiny of the Ottoman Empire.

17

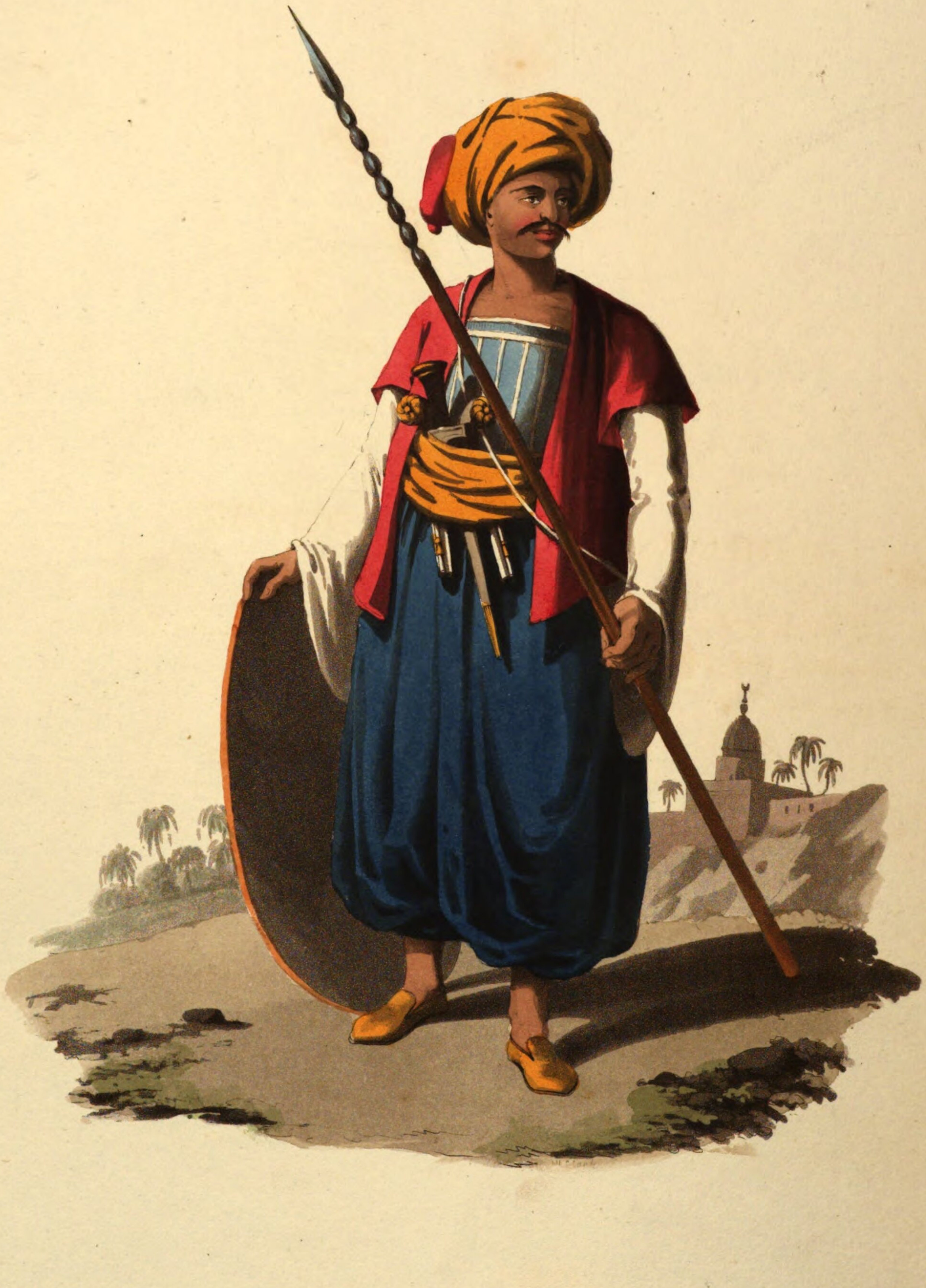

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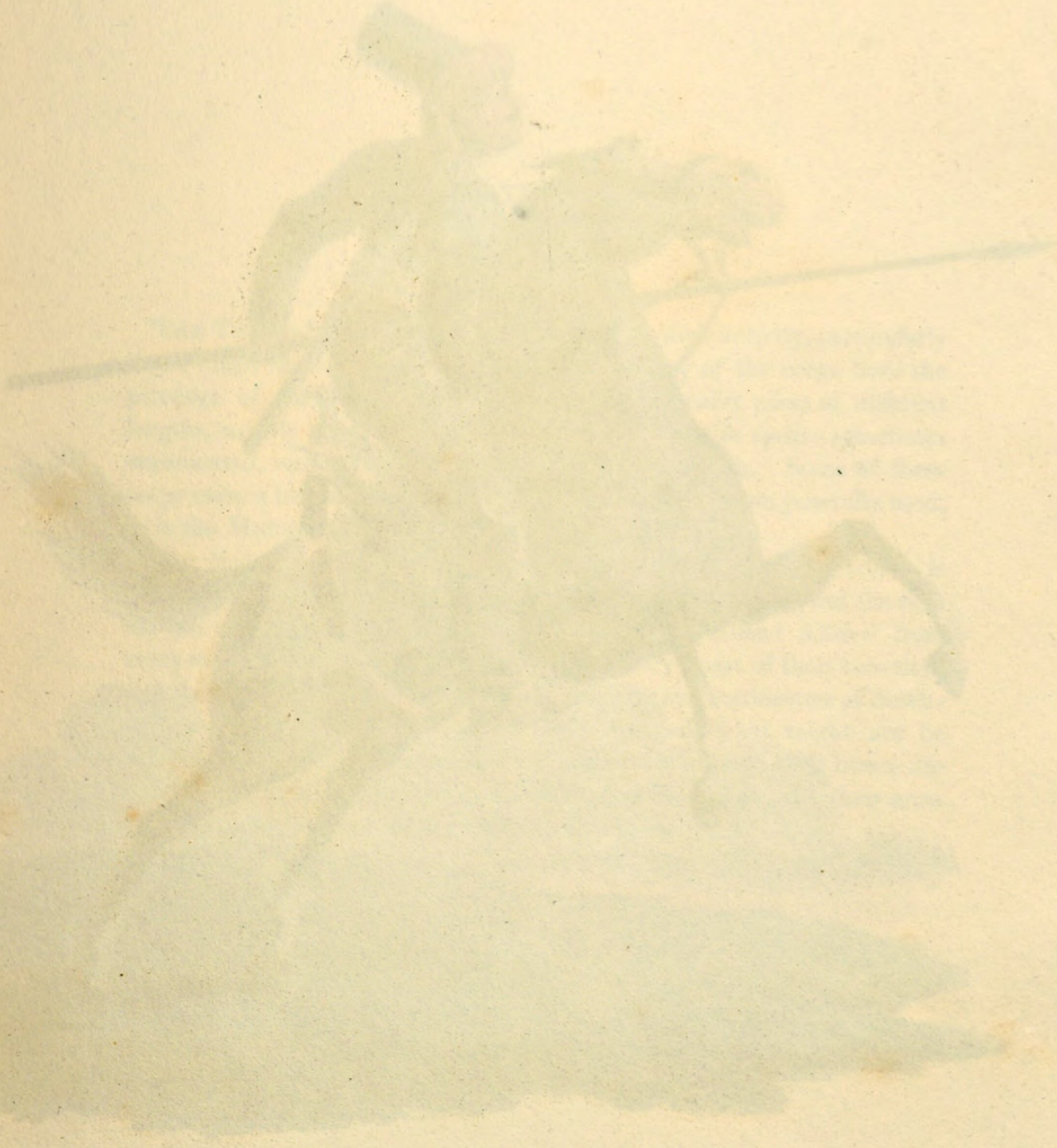
PLATE XVII.

MAMELUKE OF THE GRAND VIZIER.

In the preceding page, the Mameluke of the Grand Seignior has been described; the present subject represents one belonging to the Grand Vizier.



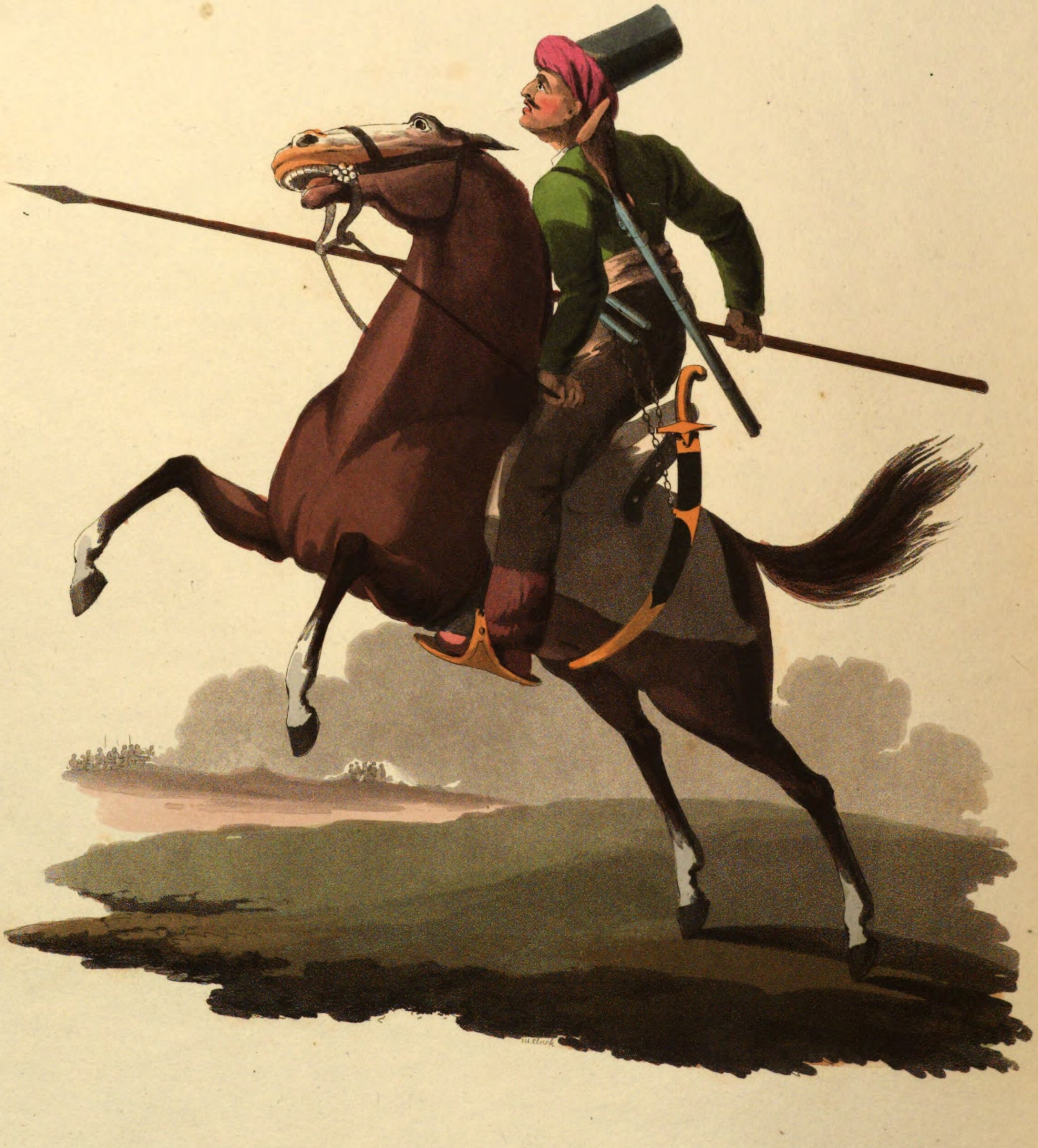


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PLATE XVIII.

CAVALRY.

THE Turkish light cavalry are remarkable for their activity, particularly those which have been raised in Georgia. Many of the corps have the privilege of selecting their own weapons; they carry pikes of different lengths, usually about six feet, having an iron point or spear, sometimes ornamented with a tassel, composed of feathers or hair. Some of these corps carry a battle-axe, but the sabre and pistols are more generally used, as is the Mameluke saddle.

The body of light cavalry, denominated Delhis, or desperadoes, is very formidable in the charge; the attack is made in troops, and the rush on the enemy is accompanied with a shout of "Allah! Allah!" from every man, as an invocation to the Deity. They boast of their temerity; and their conduct evinces a contempt for danger and fearlessness of death: with such dauntless spirits, if properly directed, what might not be achieved? They are attentive to duty, and ever watchful; their horses are constantly girthed, whether in a stable or at the piquet, and their arms in good order, and constantly about their persons.

19

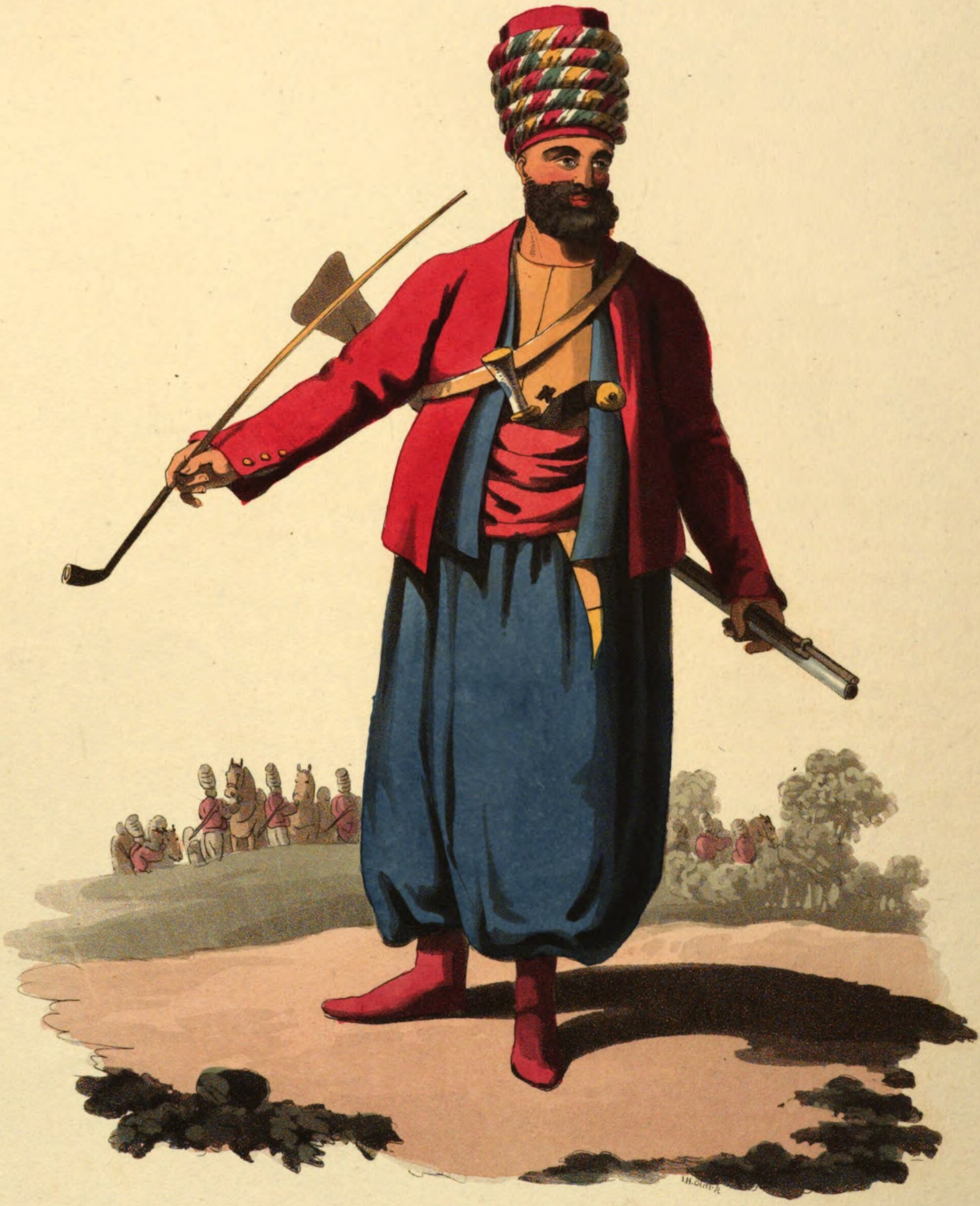

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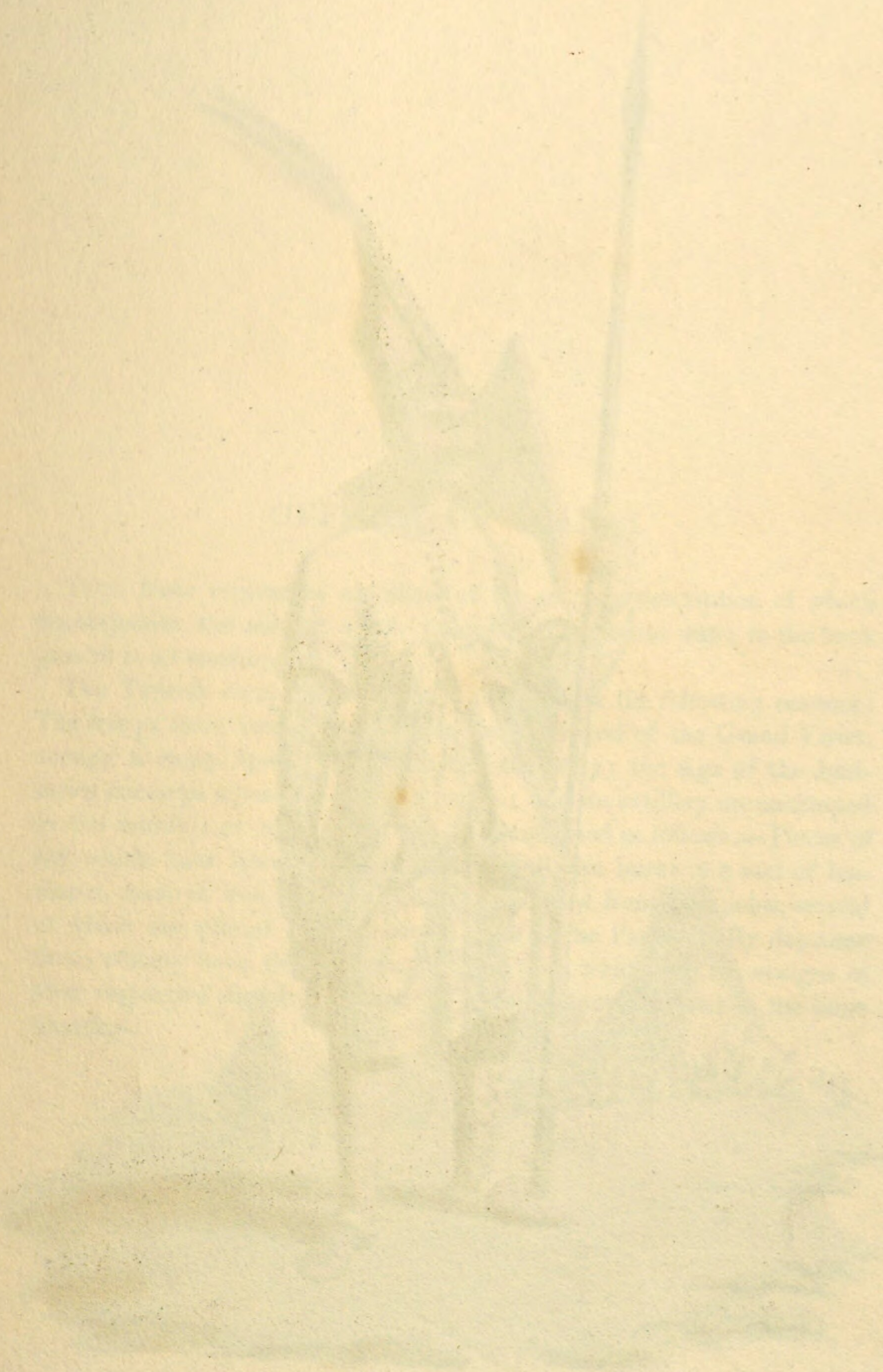
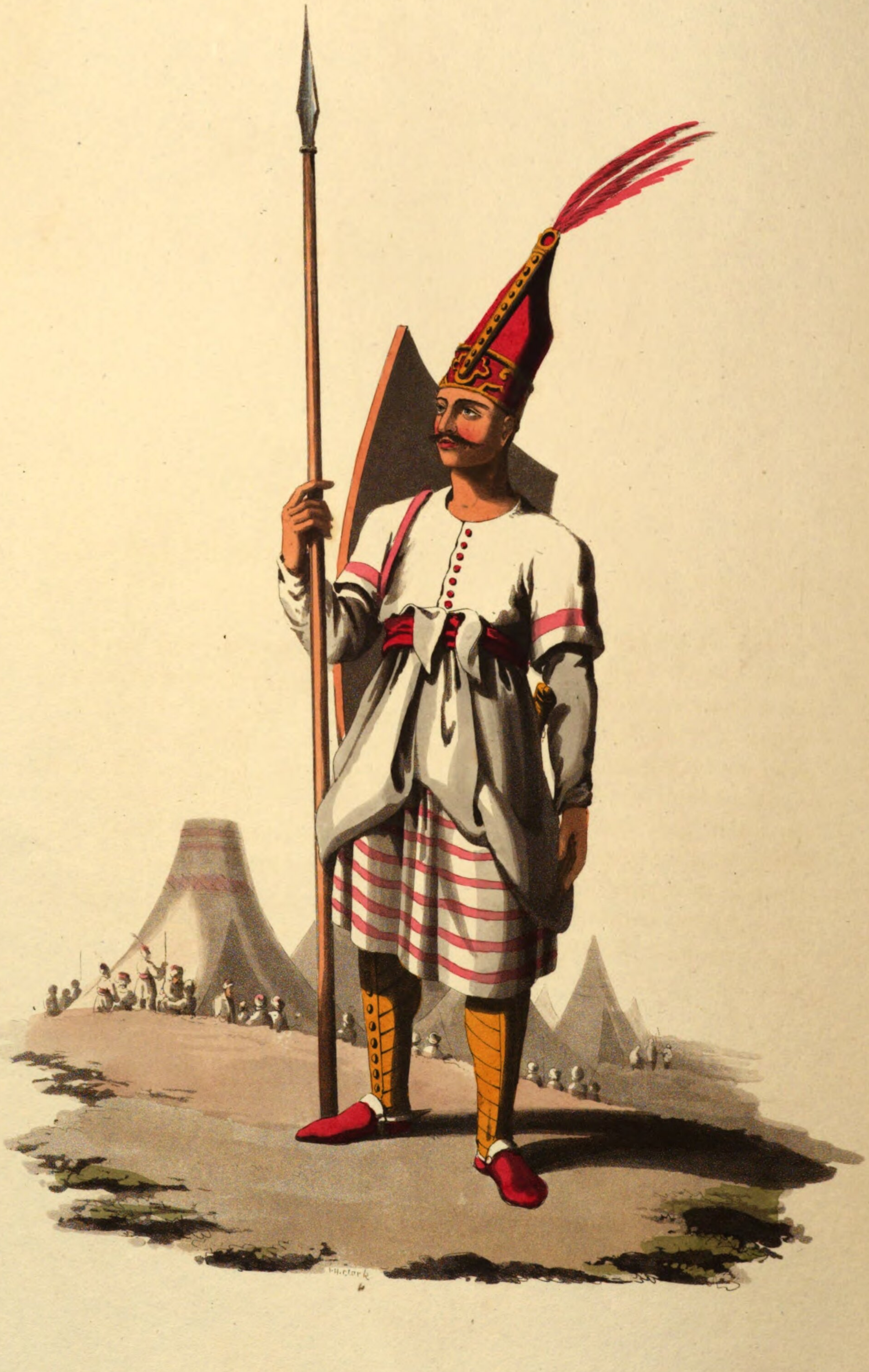
PLATE XIX.

SPAHI.

THE Spahis, who constitute the principal part of the mounted force of the empire, are chiefly raised in the Asiatic provinces: they are excellent horsemen, and are variously equipped, but in general, the lance is their principal weapon, in the use of which they are very expert: they are divided into sixteen legions, and in the early ages of the Ottoman empire, prior to the institution of the Janizaries, they were considered as its principal strength.

The Turkish horses are mostly of Arabian extraction, and are fed with barley and cut straw; they are smaller, and not so strong (particularly in the Asiatic provinces) as the breed of colder countries, but very beautiful, and full of fire and spirit.





London Published by Thoˢ. Mᶜ. Lean January 1ˢᵗ. 1818

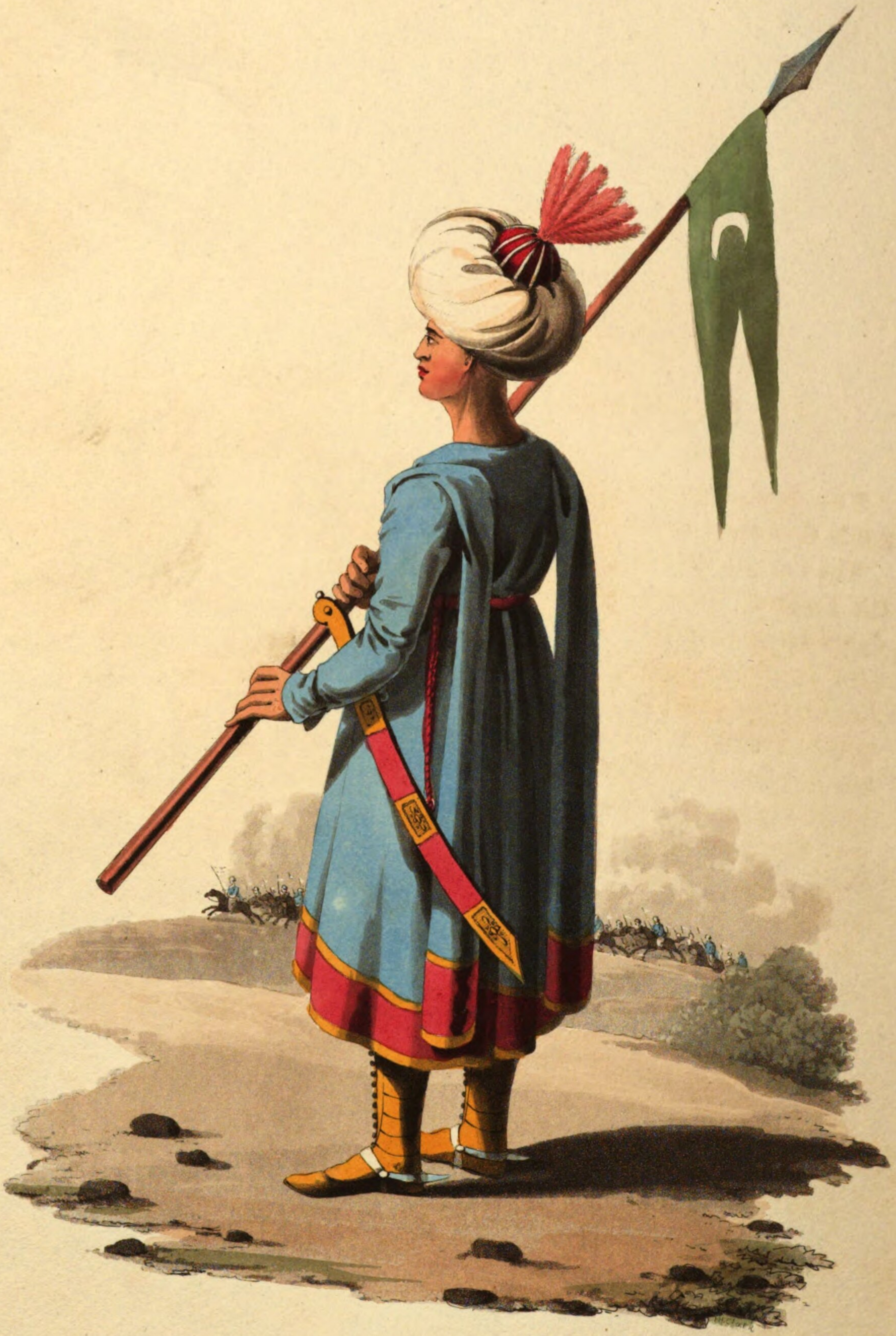
PLATE XX.

OFFICER OF SPAHIS.

This plate represents an officer of the corps, a description of which accompanies the subject which precedes the present one; in the back ground is an encampment.

The Turkish camps are in general disposed in the following manner: The troops more immediately under the command of the Grand Vizier, occupy a camp apart from the rest of the army: the Aga of the Janizaries encamps separately with his troops; and the artillery are encamped in the middle: at night the camp is illuminated as follows:—Pieces of rag which have been soaked in grease or oil, are burnt in a sort of lanthorns, made of iron hoops, which are suspended from long poles, several of which are placed in front of the tents of the Pachas. By day-time these officers have the number of horse tails, which are the ensigns of their respective dignities, placed in a conspicuous manner in the same situation.

21



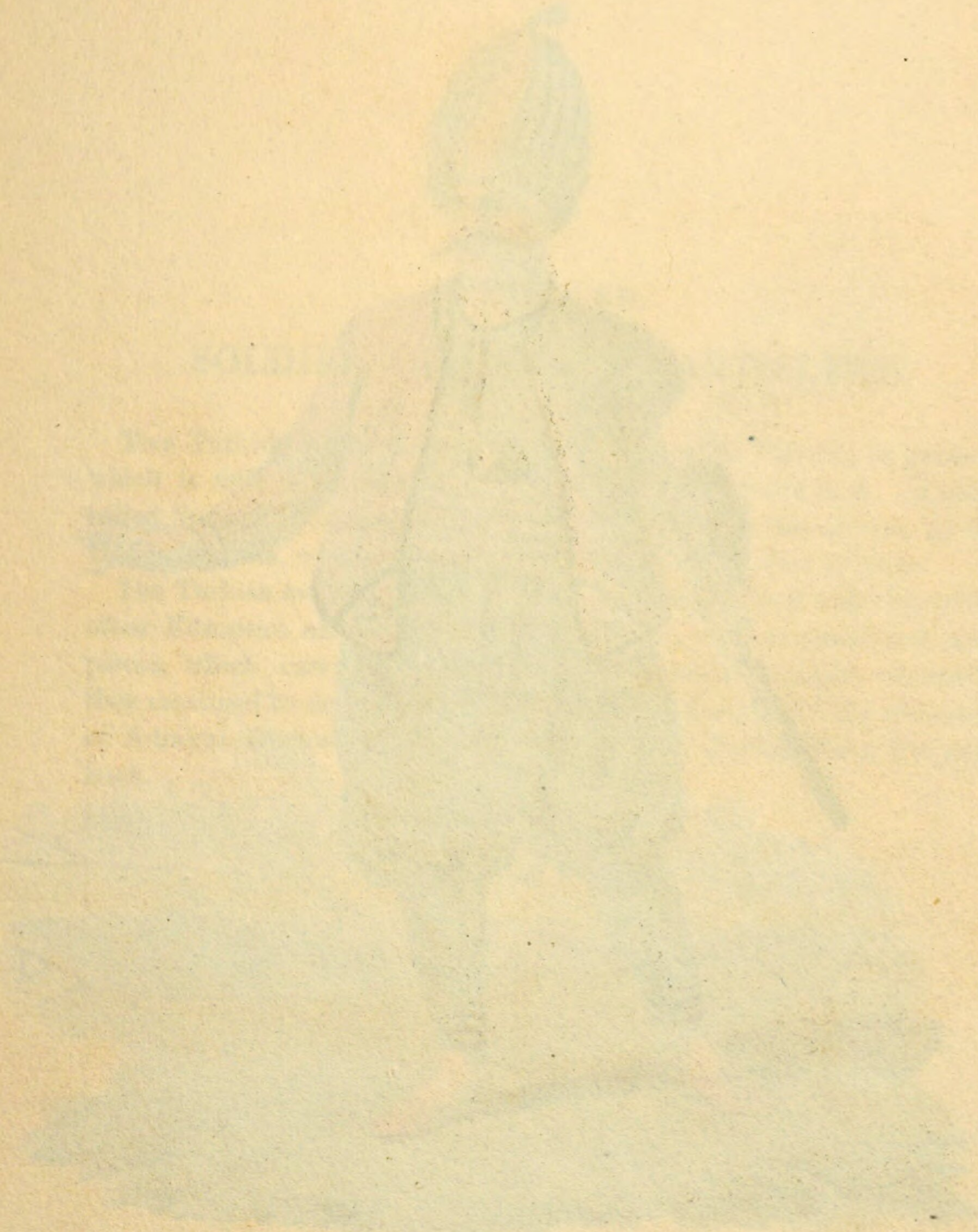
London Published by Thoˢ. Mᶜ. Lean January 1, 1818

PLATE XXI.

ENSIGN BEARER OF SPAHIS.

THE Spahis do not, as the Janizaries, ascribe more honour to their kettle than their standard.

The Turkish standards are large, particularly that which is denominated the Pacha's. There are also numerous sacred banners borne by the attendants on the dervises attached to the army, which are green, as well as a great number of small flags or banderols belonging to the different corps. Each troop consisting of twenty-five or thirty men having one, it does not appear that these flags are borne under any other idea than that of exciting terror in the hearts of an enemy. A very different effect is more likely to be produced, since the great number of men thus uselessly employed considerably lessens the effective force, and has a tendency to impede the velocity and simplicity which military operations generally require. In case of defeat, the confusion created by such a multiplicity of these banderole bearers is excessive, and the consequences incalculable. The superstition which induces the wearing of talismans as a protection against dangers of every kind, becomes unavailing: and the banner bearer, overwhelmed by terrors on every side, becomes worse than useless as an appendage to an army.



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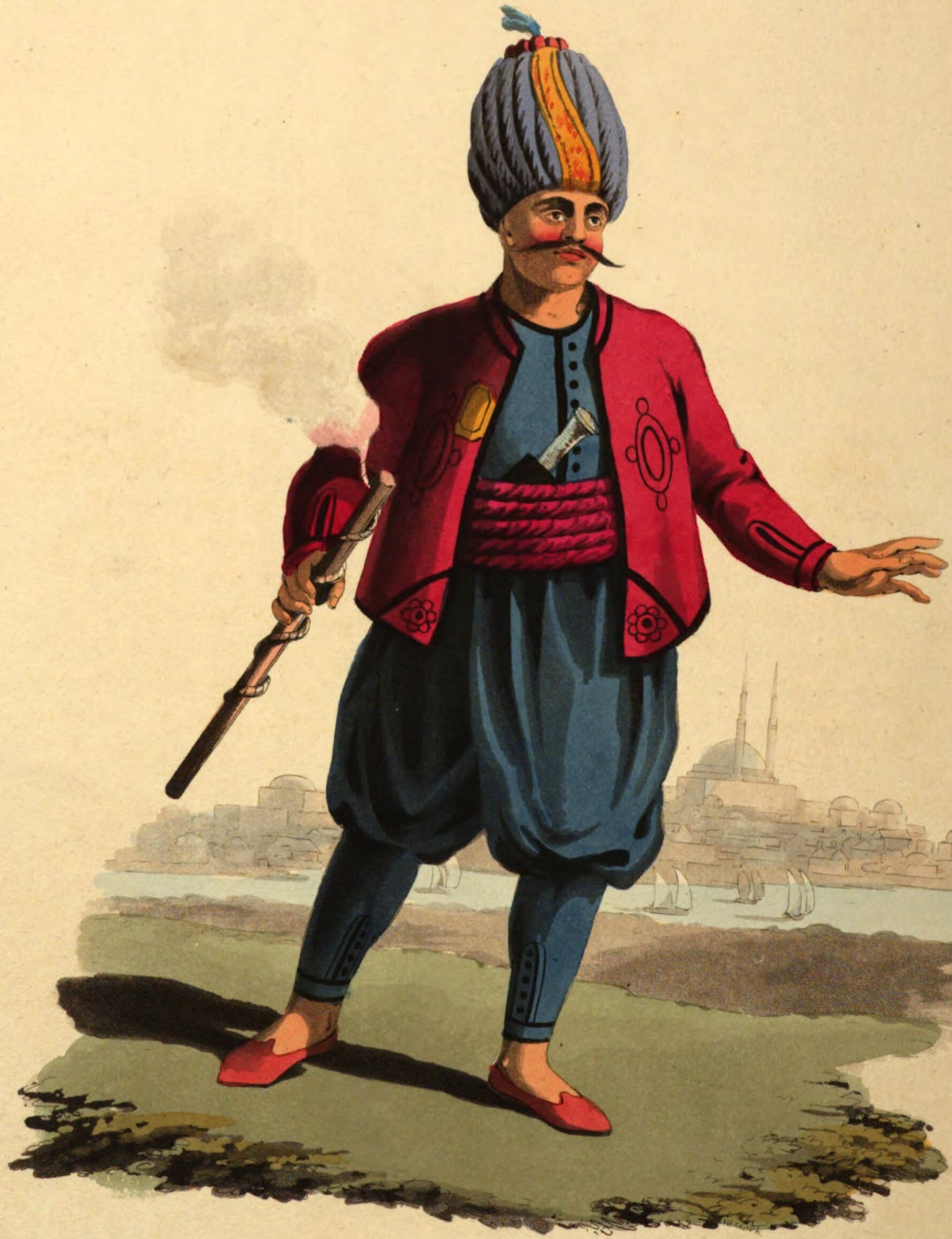


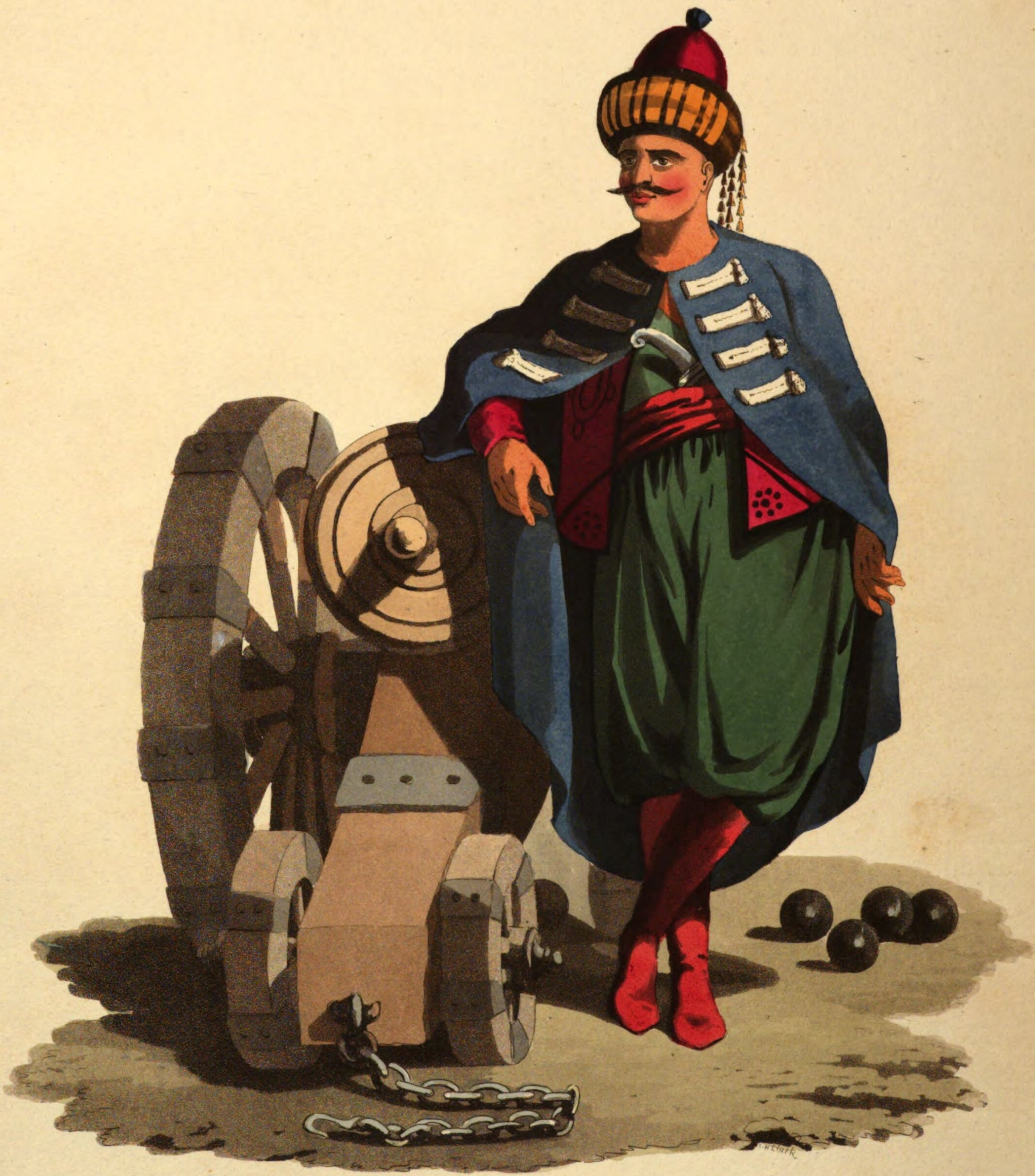
Published by Thos. McLean London January 1st 1818

PLATE XXII.

SOLDIER OF TURKISH ARTILLERY.

THE Turkish Artillery is served by a corps called Topchis, or gunners, which is said to consist of upwards of thirty thousand men. A corps called Suratchis, or diligents, was also organized for this service, by the Baron De Tott, who was employed by the Porte for that purpose.

The Turkish artillery is still, however, far behind hand with that of the other European nations; they have, however, some extraordinary large pieces, which carry stone balls of several hundred weight, wherewith they managed to do some damage to a British fleet, under the command of Admiral Duckworth, in the passage of the Dardanelles a few years back.



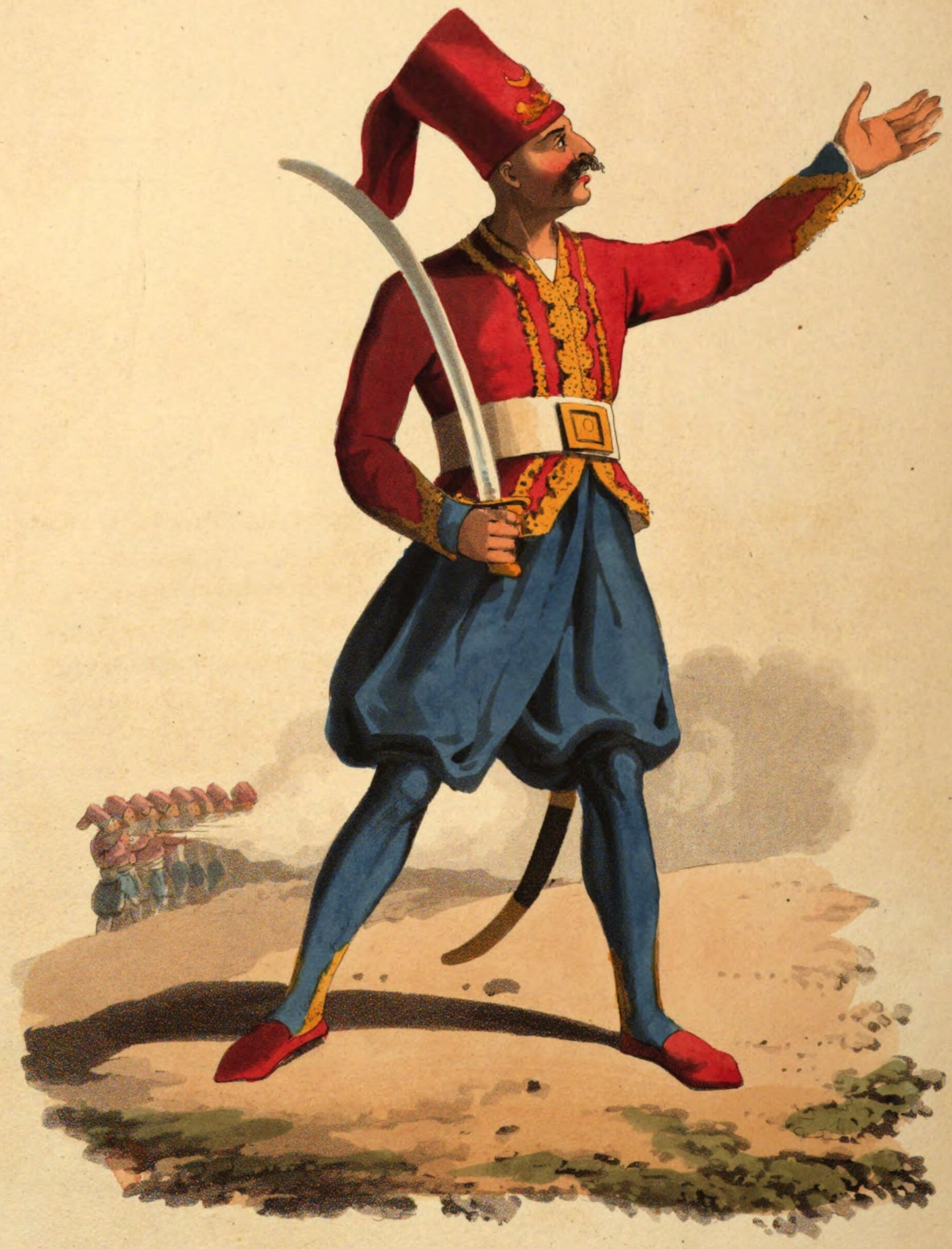
London Published by Thoˢ. McLean January 1ˢᵗ 1818

PLATE XXIII.

OFFICER OF TURKISH ARTILLERY.

This plate represents an officer belonging to the corps described in the preceding page. The chief of the artillery is called, Topchis Bachi, and the commandant of the bombardiers, Coombahragis Bachi.

24



London, Published by Thos. Mc. Lean January 1 1818.

PLATE XXIV.

OFFICER OF EUROPEAN INFANTRY.

In the year 1796, the Turkish military force was improved, by a levy of twelve thousand men, who were armed and instructed in a manual exercise and field movements, on the principles of those adopted in Great Britain. It seems to have been the intention, to detach them as much as possible from the Janizaries, on whose mutinies they would act as a check, since it was resolved they should belong nominally to the corps of Bostangis: at home, they wear the large red cap, which distinguishes that body; but on service, they wear a lighter one, as being better suited to field duty.

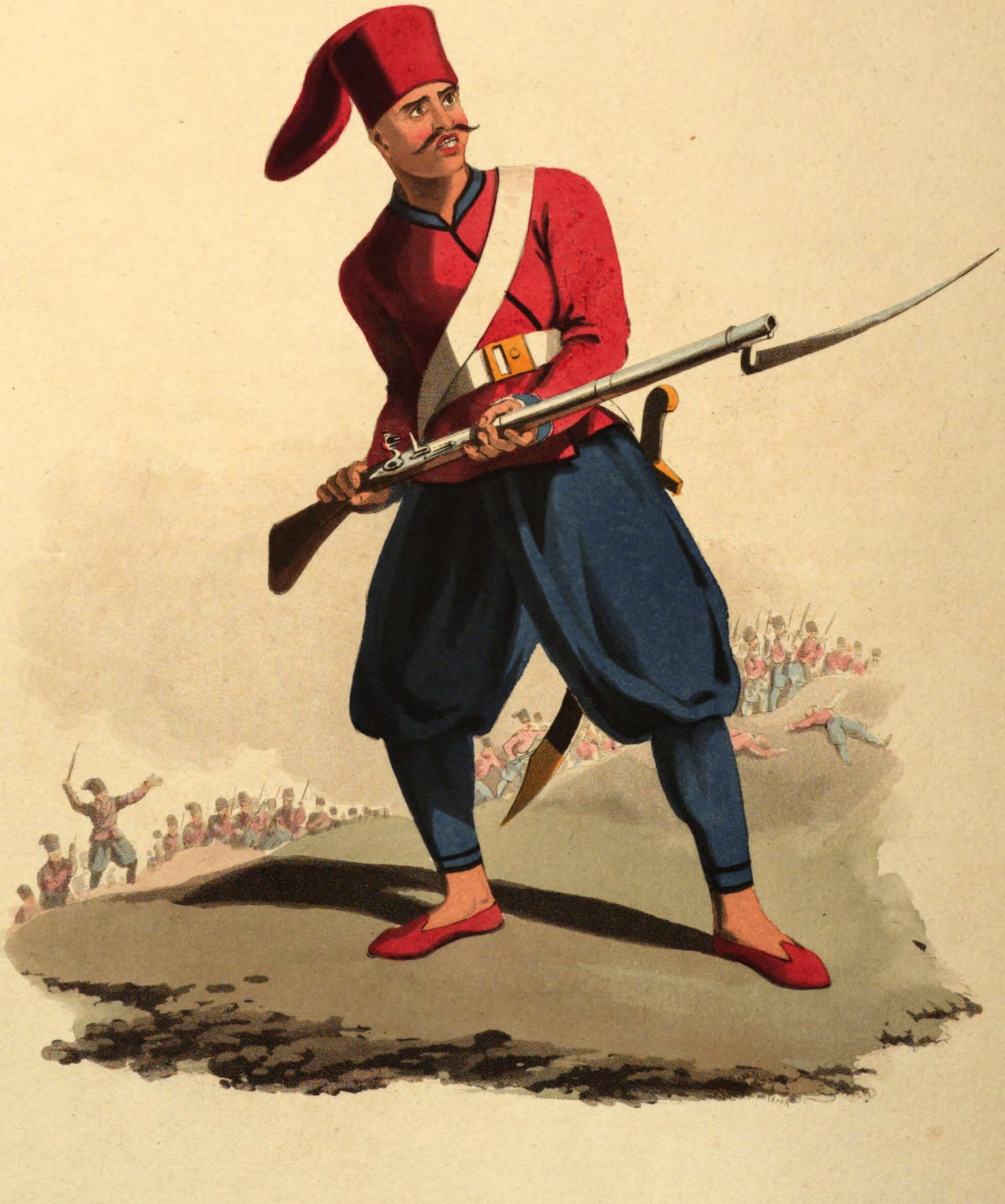


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PLATE XXV.

SOLDIER OF EUROPEAN INFANTRY.

THIS subject represents a private soldier of the corps described in the foregoing page: he is in the act of charging with the bayonet: in the back-ground a field of battle is represented. The individuals which compose the different corps of the Turkish armies, are in general possessed of the essential requisites of a soldier, hardihood and courage; and if the government was to adopt more of the modern military improvements and tactics of the other European nations, the Ottoman armies would soon become very formidable to their enemies.

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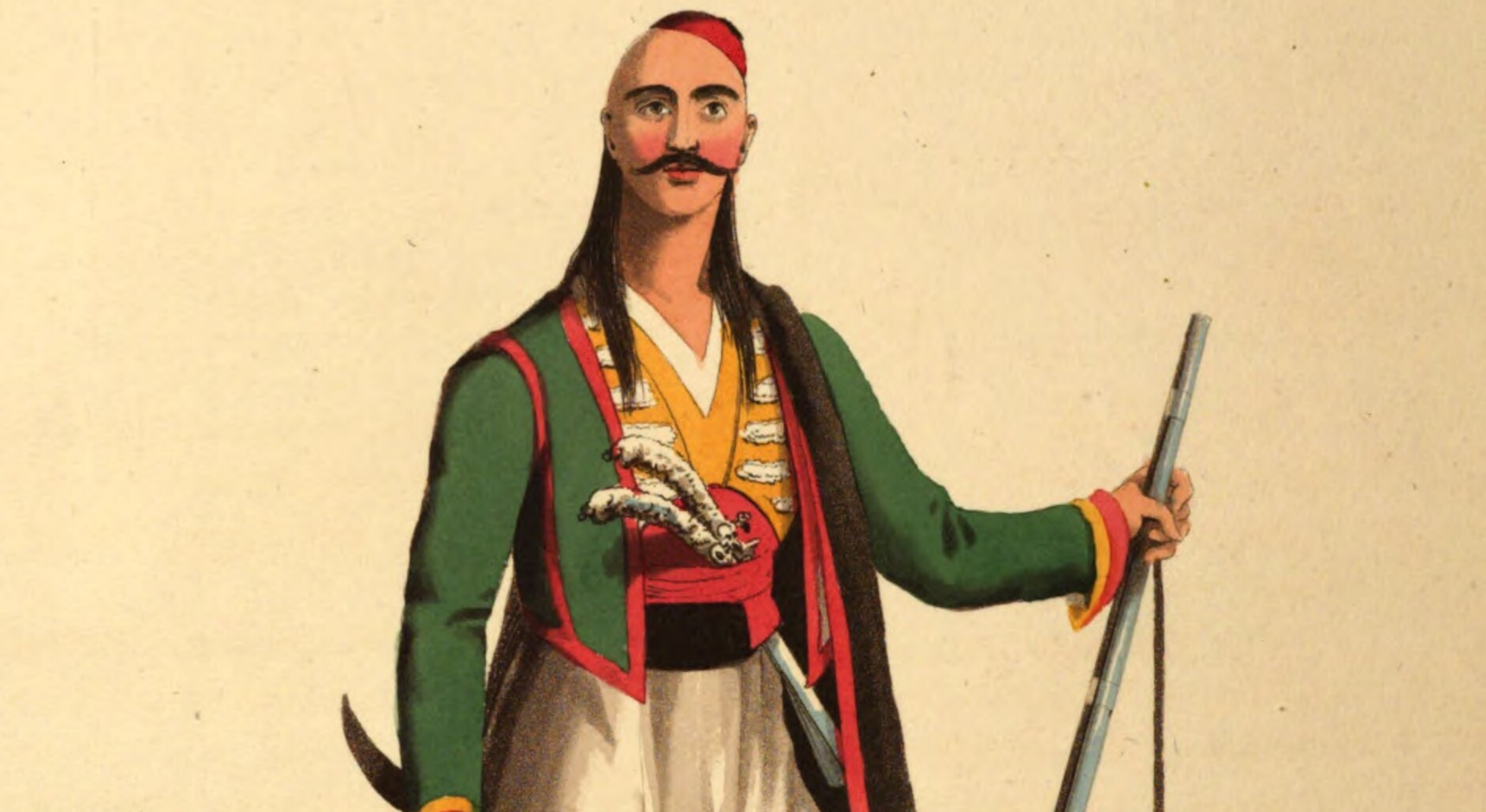

London Published by Tho. Mc Lean January 1, 1818

PLATE XXVI.

SOLDIER OF ALBANIA.

THE Albanian soldier entertains a very nice sense of honour; a blow, even amongst themselves, being revenged by immediate death. For military transgression, he is never beaten; the only punishments, in use, being either hanging or beheading.

The Albanians have long been ranked as the best troops in the Turkish armies, in which, indeed, they are on all occasions considered as the serdenguetchy, or forlorn hope.

Scanderbeg, who is the hero of so many romances, was a native and prince of a district of Albania; assisted by his brave countrymen, he threw off the Turkish yoke, and resisted the whole weight of the Ottoman power, then at its zenith, for the space of twenty three-years; after his death, his sepulchre was violated by the conquerors of his country; and a certain proof of his valour may be inferred, from the circumstance of the Janizaries having worn his bones enchased in bracelets.

The Albanians have frequently proved powerful opponents to the Russian troops, and such is the love of glory inherent in them, that when they contemplate a long interval of tranquillity in their own country, they enrol themselves in the service of the Pachas of any of the other parts of the Turkish dominions, for the purpose of gratifying their military ardour.

27

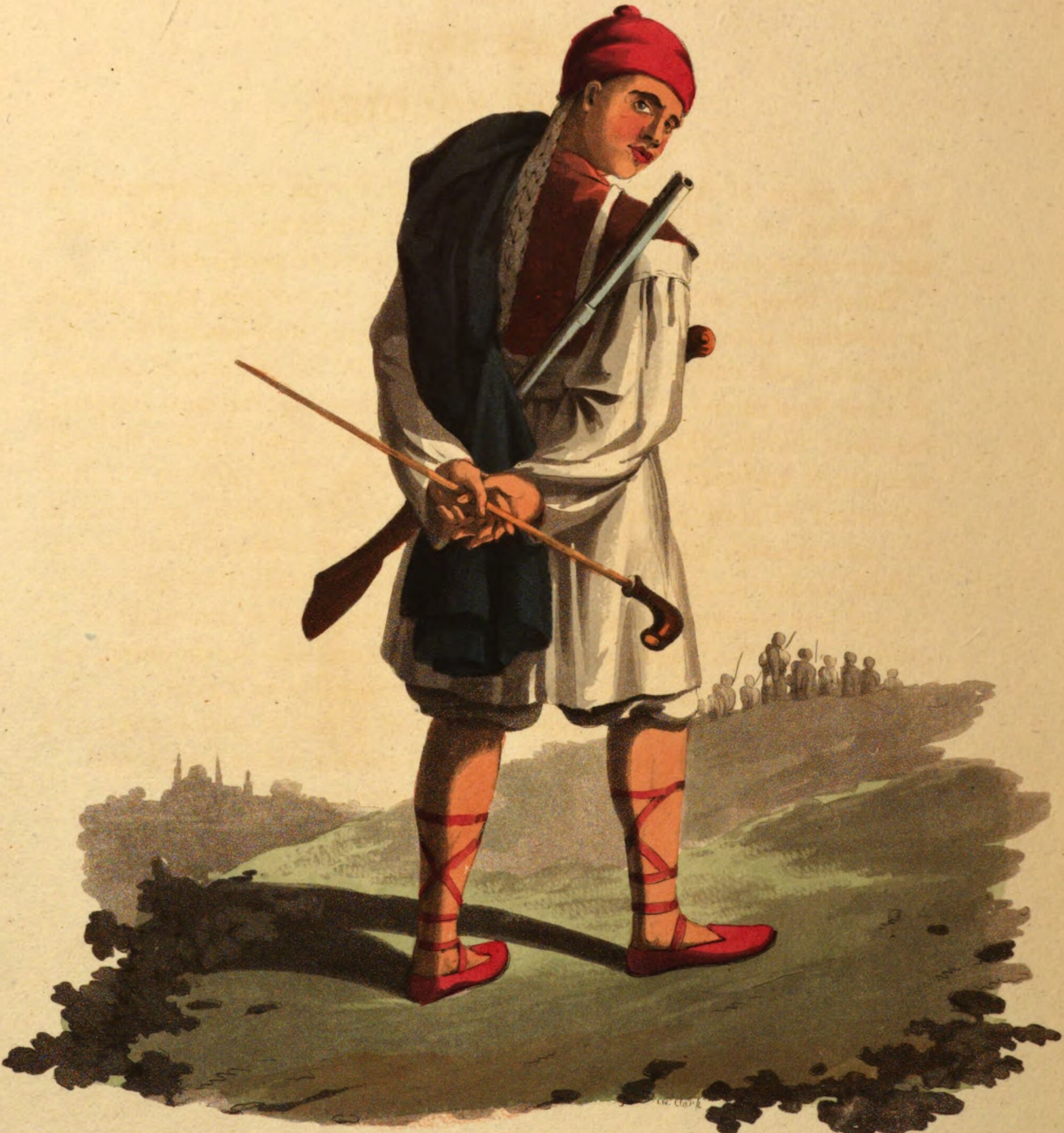

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PLATE XXVII.

ARNAUT SOLDIER.

THE name of Arnauts is given to those troops, which are raised in Macedonia, the Morea, and the provinces bordering upon Sclavonia, and are commanded by officers from their respective provinces.

These troops are hardy and vigorous, being inured from their infancy to laborious pursuits; they feel a pride in tracing their descent from the Spartans, and endeavour to imitate the martial fierceness and manners of their forefathers: they endure, without murmuring, the most fatiguing marches; but in other respects are undisciplined: they are also slovenly and much addicted to gaming and plundering: they possess but little command of their passions, as private disputes frequently terminate in the assassination of one of the parties. These troops are, however, excellent marksmen, as well as very active in the field: they are usually formed into corps of infantry, a thousand strong, under command of an officer, styled Bin Bachi, although there are some who are mounted, and several corps were so employed during the campaign in Egypt.

The arms of an Arnaut soldier consist of a pair of pistols stuck in a sash, a long handjar knife, or dagger, and a musket with a long barrel.

The figure represents one of the Arnaut infantry on a march.

PLATE XXVII.

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The figure represents one of the Arnaut infantry on a march.

28

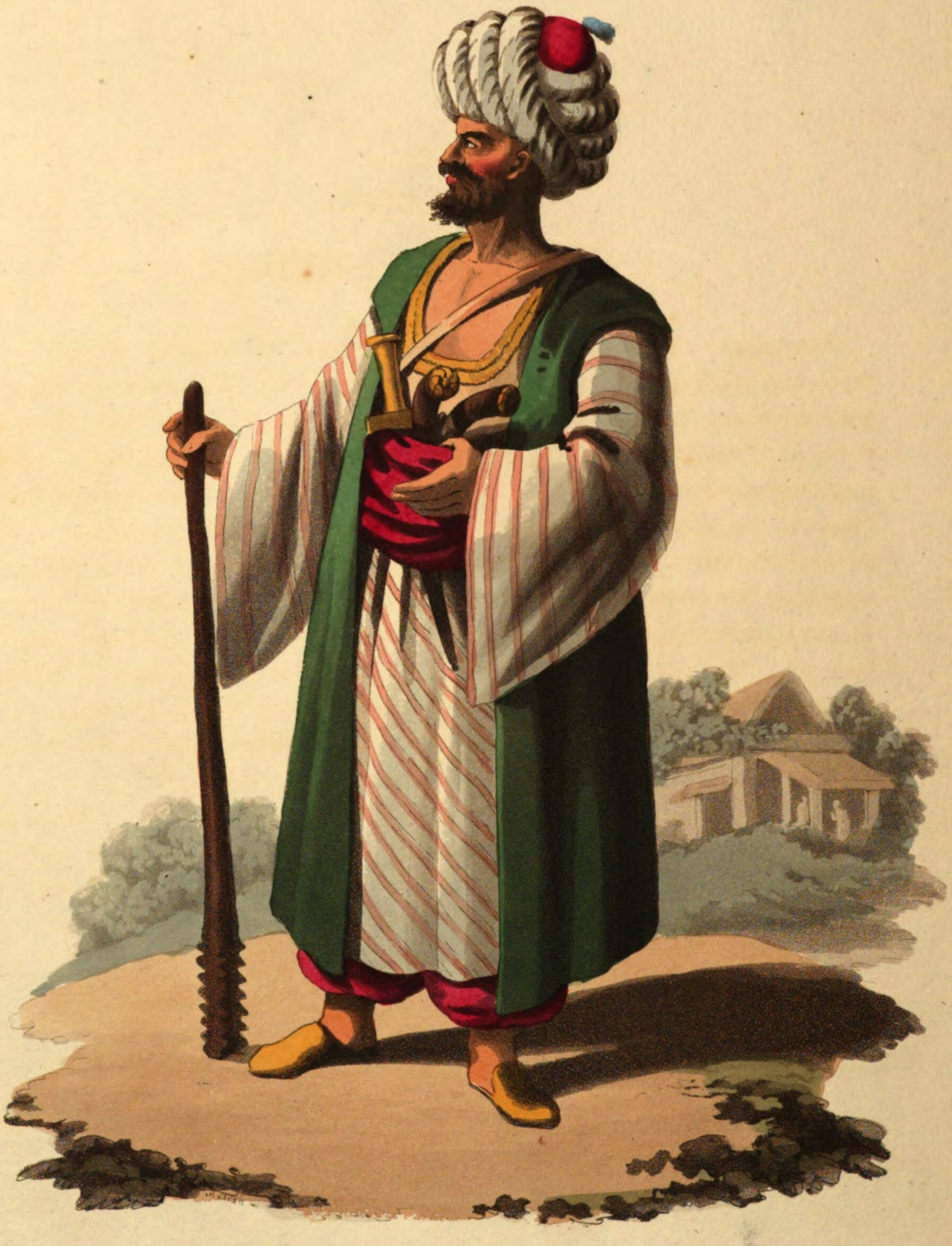

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PLATE XXVIII.

CARAMANIAN SOLDIER.

Caramania is a considerable province of Asiatic Turkey; its civil and military jurisdiction is administered by Waiwods, or officers, who purchase the right to oppress the commonalty. The bad effects of such a system, is no where more conspicuous than in Caramania, where immense districts exhibit the consequences attendant on bad government, ruin and depopulation. The spirit of the inhabitants, being subdued by the precarious nature of their existence, they have neither interest or pride, in opposing the inroads which time is ever making on the works of ancient art and grandeur, by which they are surrounded: they quit their dwellings at that time of the year when the sun becomes oppressive, leaving them open to all intruders, and journey towards the mountains, where they remain until the fertility of their old neighbourhood induces them to return.

The accompanying print represents one of the guards of the Waiwod, he is armed with a handjar, pistols, and a club of hardened wood, jagged, or serrated, at the weighty end. The back-ground shows the style in which the hovels in Caramania are constructed.

PLATE XVIII.

CARAMANIAN SOLDIER.

Caramania is a considerable province of Asiatic Turkey; its civil and military jurisdiction is administered by Waiwods, or officers, who purchase the right to enforce that of annually. The bad effects of such a system, is no where more conspicuous than in Caramania, where [illegible] [illegible] hold [illegible] [illegible] attendant on bad government, ruin and depopulation. The rest of the [illegible] being subdued by the [illegible] [illegible] of their [illegible] they have neither interest or pride, in [illegible] the [illegible] which [illegible] ever [illegible] on the works of ancient art and grandeur, by which they are surrounded: they quit their dwellings at that time of the year when the sun becomes oppressive, [illegible] them [illegible] tents, and journey towards the mountains, where they remain until the [illegible] of their [illegible] them [illegible].

[illegible] [illegible] soldier [illegible] [illegible] with [illegible] and a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] style in which the [illegible] [illegible] are [illegible].

29

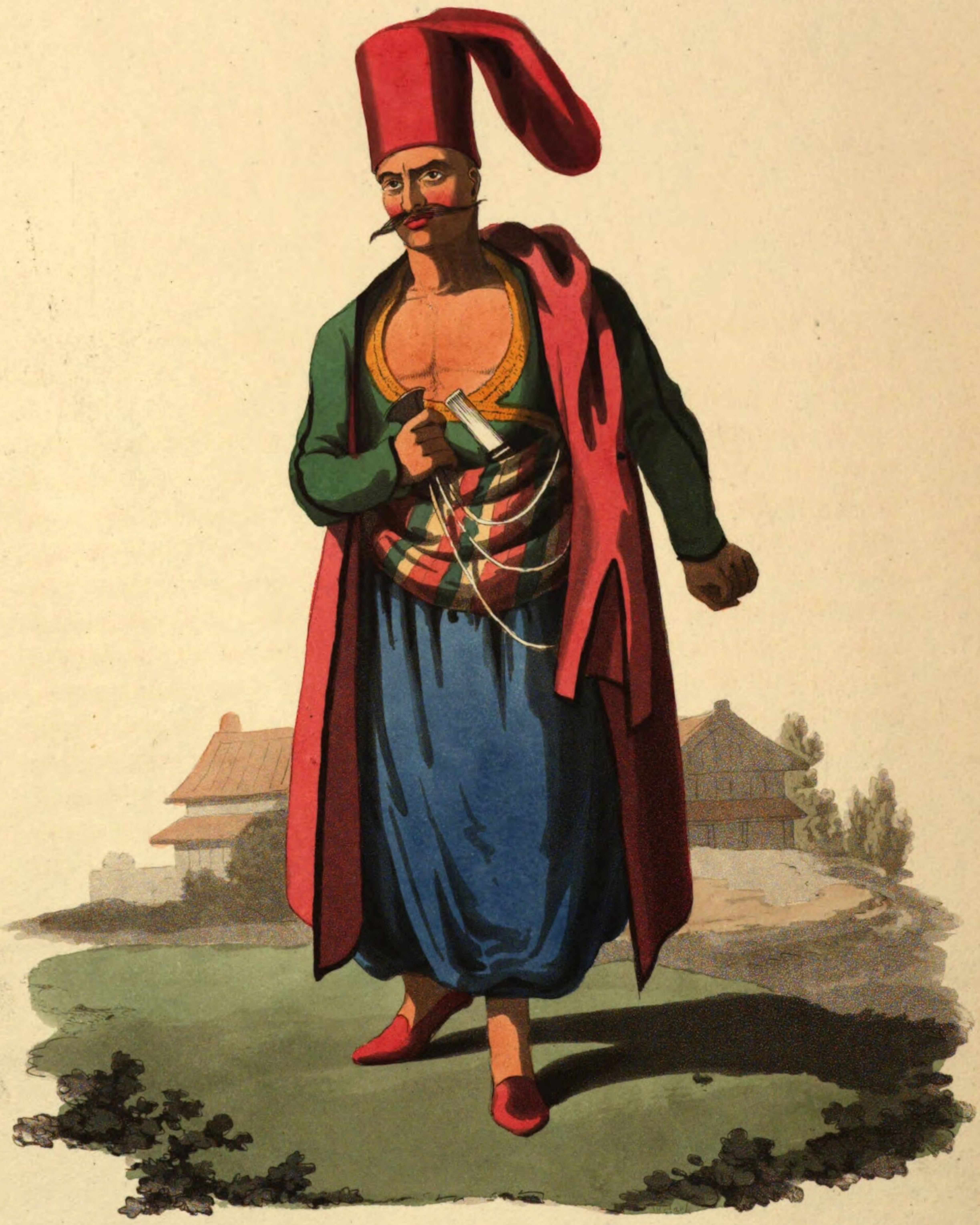

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PLATE XXIX.

BOSTANGI.

THE literal meaning of the word Bostangis, is gardeners, is not sufficiently indicative of the employments of those who bear it, which are of a very diversified nature.

The Bostangis are a very numerous body of men at Constantinople, amounting to several thousands; they compose the first, or outer guard of the seraglio, and a detachment, selected from them and called Assequis, forms a part of the Sultan's body-guard, whom they always accompany, armed with sabres, which they wear slung over their shoulders, and carrying white staves, to indicate that they are the executors of his commands.

The Bostangis, likewise, have the superintendance of all the palaces and gardens belonging to the Sultan, whom they also accompany as rowers in his barge, when he goes on the water, on which occasion he is steered by their chief, the Bostangi Bachi, who is an officer of considerable power, as in addition to the command of such a large body of men, and the civil jurisdiction of the seraglio, his authority extends over all the police of the capital, and on the water as far as the entrance to the Black Sea.

The dress of ceremony of the Bostangis, consists of red habits, and bonnets of the same colour.

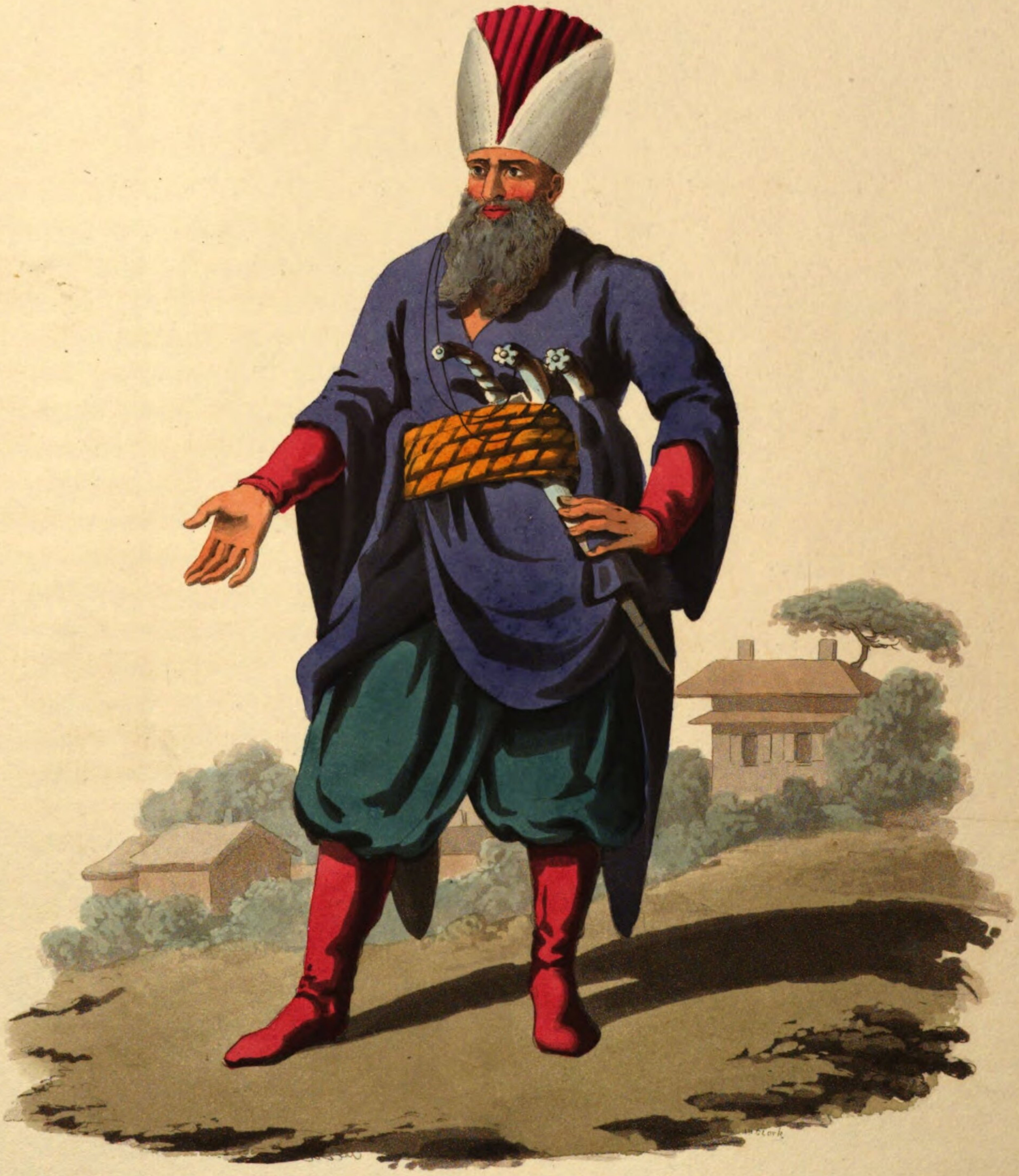

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PLATE XXX.

OFFICER OF POLICE.

UNDER the Bostangi Bachi, there is a sort of lieutenant of the police at Constantinople, called Stambol Effendissi, who fixes the price of provisions, and takes care, either by himself, or his sub-delegate, called Murtasib, that the weights and measures are just. When either of these officers proceed in the execution of their duty, some persons are always sent before them in disguise, who seize upon the light bread of some baker, or the weights and scales of any other fraudulent trader. The Stambol Effendissi, or his deputy, mounted on horseback, and preceded by four Janizaries in their habits of ceremony, with white staves in their hands, follows after, one of his attendants carrying scales, another weights, a third a hammer, and the rest cudgels and other instruments, to punish the guilty.

The light bread is put into the scale against the weight which it ought to weigh, and the baker, already seized, and in the presence of his judge, expects his sentence, whether it be the bastinado, or to have his ears nailed to his shop, or even to be hanged, at the caprice of his judge.

The patroles who go the rounds of the city, are only armed with a kind of bludgeon, the lower end of which is dipped in rosin; for this reason robberies are committed in open day in the streets of Constantinople, and its suburbs, more particularly on the eve of the departure of the ships from the harbour, when the lawless excesses of the Gallangis, or seamen, is such as to set apprehension at defiance; the shopkeeper during this period closes his shop; the desperate and audacious conduct of these ruffians being such as to prevent the interference of the other passengers in cases of robbery, the patroles themselves being often not proof against the effects of intimidation.

When a criminal endeavours to escape, the patroles show much dexterity in tripping him up, by throwing the bludgeons, or staves, wherewith they are armed, at his legs.

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